CAS Core for Engineering Majors

For ENG students, the opportunity to use Core to satisfy requirements means they can enjoy the best of both worlds: an intensive, focused technical training in their home College, and an intellectually venturesome liberal arts experience in the Core classroom.

College of Engineering students can complete their Writing and Hub requirements through the Core Curriculum: a self-selecting learning community where students and faculty study together the great works of literature, philosophy, art and social sciences that have shaped our world.

Engineering students are able to take Core simply by registering for one Core class each semester, leaving their senior year free. The six classes an Engineering student needs to complete the Core—four Humanities and two Social Sciences—fulfill the Writing and Hub classes otherwise required.

Using Core to satisfy Hub requirements is not an all-or-nothing proposition. Take one class to start; try it out, and see if Core is for you!

In Core, students from throughout the University come together to work with dedicated faculty from a rich variety of disciplines. Core classes are conducted as seminars, with an average of 15 students, based in discussion, and led by full-time faculty from departments throughout CAS.

Dante: “I’ve brought you here through intellect and art; from now on, let your pleasure be your guide.”
Non-CAS students taking classes in CAS can sometimes find themselves sidelined in department courses where the focus can be oriented toward departmental majors. The Core community provides a place for students from any college at BU to participate in of a shared sense of experience, purpose, and belonging. And since Core isn’t in competition with the home department or college, the program becomes just one more source of support on campus.

Because Core is interdisciplinary, Core students learn to think beyond the boundaries of a particular discipline and to develop the perspective necessary for creative and innovative thought. Students who complete the program are eligible for Core Honors; and, as a mark that Core students have achieved a well-rounded education, they receive an annotation on their official BU transcript:

“Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences.”

First-year students taking large and demanding classes particularly benefit from the small classes, discussion-based learning, and close relation with faculty and other students that Core provides, both in the classroom and through opportunities such as:

- Scholarships for Summer Study in Athens
- Core housing in central campus
- Leadership opportunities including Core Peer Tutoring fellowships
- The Core Polytropos Award and the Devlin Award for excellence in writing
- Visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, the BSO, and other cultural sites
- An undergraduate society with weekly discussion meetings
- An annual literary journal in publication for more than 25 years

For more information, contact program director Professor Stephanie Nelson at nelson@bu.edu or 617-353-5404, or write to the department staff at core@bu.edu.

ENG students are invited to stop by for a visit. The Core office is located in the College of Arts & Sciences building, Room 119.