Core and a Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Major

Core is a community of faculty and students who value ideas and who share an ongoing conversation about texts, inventions and discoveries that have shaped our world.

In Core, majors and faculty from philosophy and biology, political science and religion, as well as a rich variety of other disciplines, come together in small discussion classes capped at 15 students, to examine the most fundamental questions of human life. Students learn to think beyond the boundaries of particular disciplines to develop the perspective needed for creative and innovative thought.

First-year students in a major as large and demanding as Biology particularly benefit from the close relation with faculty and other students that Core provides, both in class and through opportunities such as study programs in Greece (summer) and Florence (winter); specialty Core housing; leadership opportunities including Mentoring Fellowships and journal editorial roles; recognition for academic achievement, including the Devlin Award and the Polytropos Award; and a full calendar of cultural events.

Core is particularly designed to examine how the natural sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences work together.

>> For example, CC 101—the first-year Core Humanities course—explores the literature and culture of the Hebrew Bible, Mesopotamia, and Ancient Greece, and looks at the two creation stories in Genesis in comparison to evolution and the Big Bang, topics discussed in the Core science courses. CC 102 examines the relation of human beings and nature in authors as diverse as Aristotle, Confucius, Laozi and Dante.

>> CC 112 and 211, the Core Social Sciences, examine how human beings’ “natural” condition is seen by social theorists and the development of modern, scientific approaches to the study of society.

>> Finally, CC 201 and 202 round out a student’s liberal education by examining the literature, philosophy, art, and music that brought us to the modern world. Alongside CC 212—the Core Natural Science course, “Reality, Science, and the Modern World”—CC 202 returns us to 21st century America with a new ability to understand the world we live in.

CORE, HUB REQUIREMENTS, AND YOUR SCHEDULE

Core is a compact, integrated way for Natural Sciences majors to complete their Hub requirements.

Since Core is a self-selecting program, students are free to take as many or as few Core classes as they wish. As Core classes give credit for Hub and Writing requirements, many STEM students use them to complement the course requirements for their majors.

- CC 101 gives Hub credit for Aesthetic Exploration, Global Citizenship, and Creativity / Innovation.
- CC 102 gives WR 120 credit and Hub credit for Oral / Signed Communication.
- CC 112 and 211 give Hub credit for Social Inquiry I and II as well as Global Citizenship, Historical Consciousness, Critical Thinking and a writing intensive course.

Students generally take CC 101 / 102 their freshman year. However, as long as the Humanities are taken in order, Core classes can be taken at any time during your BU career.

Students who complete all eight Core courses receive an annotation on their official BU transcript: “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences.” However, Natural Science students can complete Core by taking only six classes—four Humanities and two Social Sciences.

Students who complete Core with at least B+ in their Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

Students who wish to continue in Core may complete a Minor in Core Liberal Arts & Sciences by completing CC 101 & 102, and any other four Core courses.

Visit www.bu.edu/core/hub/core-and-your-major to see how Core classes can be used to earn course credit for particular major requirements.

For more information, contact Prof. Nelson at nelson@bu.edu / 617-353-5404 or Chris McMullen in the Advising Office: cmcmull@bu.edu / 617-353-2400.

When you’re on campus, please feel free to stop by the Core Office for a visit. We’re in CAS Room 119, 685 Commonwealth Ave, by the Tsai Auditorium, near the GSU.