Core and the Pre-health Student

In the Core Curriculum, students and faculty from philosophy and biology, political science and religion, and 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 any particular discipline and develop the perspective needed for creative, innovative thought.

First-year students on a demanding pre-health track will benefit from the close relation with faculty and classmates that Core provides, both in class and in extra-curricular opportunities.

Each Core class examines the relation of the Humanities, Social and Natural Sciences in the holistic manner encouraged by medical schools. In this way they are particularly suited to students interested in the study of medicine and related fields.

Core looks at the whole human being, as a physical, social, and highly individual entity. In this way Core is particularly suited to students preparing to enter the health professions.

CC 101, for example, in the course of exploring Genesis, Exodus and Mesopotamian and Greek literature and culture, looks at philisopohic, literary and religious views of origins in comparison to the Big Bang and scientific views of the evolution of human life. CC 102 examines the relation of human beings and nature in authors as diverse as Aristotle, Confucius, Laozi and Dante, while CC 112 looks at society and religion from the viewpoint of the Social Sciences.

CC 112 and 211, Core Social Sciences, also include psychology and sociology, a new element on the MCAT, and look at questions such as human beings’ “natural” condition as seen by social theorists, the social effect of scientific discoveries, and the development of modern, scientific approaches to the study of human life.

Finally, CC 201 and 202 examine the literature, philosophy, art, and music that brought us to the modern world. Along with CC 212, CC 202 returns us to 21st century America with a new ability to understand the world we live in.

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.

Core, Hub Requirements, and your Schedule

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, pre-health students can 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, Pre-Health majors can complete Core by taking only six classes—four Humanities and two Social Sciences.
- Students who complete Core with a grade of at least B+ in their Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

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.