Core and a Psychological & Brain Sciences Major

Core classes are conducted as seminars capped at 15 students, led by full-time faculty. Core students form a close relation with faculty and classmates, in class and in optional extra-curricular activities—a particularly valuable benefit for students in a major as large and demanding as Psychology.

>> Core Humanities and Natural Sciences provides Psych/Brain Sciences students with a valuable overview of how the human mind has expressed itself in the art, literature, philosophy, and music of the Western world and Asia. Students examine and compare radically different ideas of the self, the relation of the individual to society, and the nature of consciousness.

>> Core Social Science continues Core’s interdisciplinary exploration of the relation of the natural and social sciences and the humanities by examining how human beings’ “natural” condition is seen by social theorists as well as how modern, scientific approaches to the relation of the self and society developed.

Especially for students in an interdisciplinary program like Psychological & Brain Sciences, the multiple disciplinary perspectives and broad social reach of the Core courses provides a grounding in foundational texts and ideas that enriches the intellectual content of all your other coursework.

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. Since all 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.
- 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 a grade of 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.

For students working to complete a double major, Core classes can be a valuable asset. Visit bu.edu/core/hub/core-and-your-major to see how Core classes can be used to satisfy course requirements for particular majors.

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

Whenever you’re on campus, please feel free to stop by for a visit.

We’re in CAS Room 119, 685 Commonwealth Ave, by the Tsai Auditorium, near the GSU.