Core and a Neuroscience Major

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

In Core, faculty and students from philosophy and biology, sociology and religion, as well as a rich variety of other disciplines, come together in small discussion classes capped at 16 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 necessary for creative and innovative thought.

First-year students in a demanding major like Neuroscience particularly benefit from the close relations with faculty and other students that Core provides, both in class and in opportunities such as:

- Scholarships for Summer Study Abroad in Athens
- Specialty Core housing in central campus
- Opportunities for leadership positions, such as with the Core Peer Tutors
- The Devlin Award for excellence in writing, and the Core Polytropos Award for graduating seniors
- Visits to the Museum of Fine Arts, Symphony Hall, and other high-value cultural destinations
- Student-led Core activities, including the annual student-run Core Journal

>> Core Humanities provide Neuroscience students with a valuable overview of how the human mind has expressed itself in the art, literature, philosophy, and music of both the Western world and Asia. Students examine and compare radically different ideas of the self, the relation of the individual to society, and the human approach to truth in courses designed to complement Natural Science topics such as the origin of life, what makes us human, and the nature of consciousness.

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

Please note: Students with a scheduling conflict that prevents them from attending Core lectures may still enroll in Core by agreeing to listen to recordings of the lecture via the course webpage.

Core, Hub requirements, and your schedule

Since Core satisfies your Hub general education requirements there is plenty of room to complete the program. Students who take all of Core fulfill all Hub and Writing requirements. For example:

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

Although students generally take CC 101 and CC 102 in their first year, as long as the Core Humanities courses are taken in order, Core classes can be taken at any time during your BU career. STEM students who complete the four Humanities and two Social Science Core courses have “Completed the Interdisciplinary Core Curriculum in Arts and Sciences” recorded on their official Boston University transcript. Students who complete Core with a grade of at least B+ in their Core classes are eligible for Core Honors.

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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.

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