

Welcome from BU Orientation!

1839

*Your journey starts here***18 weeks to arrival. 39 days to thrive.**

Volume 13: BU 102: Academic Steps for Success

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Planning Your Academic Adventure

As you gear up to start your first BU classes, here are a few tips for making the most of your academics:

1. Get to know your professors by visiting them during their "office hours." Office hours are typically listed on a course syllabus or on a professor's webpage.
2. Check out the different types of [specialty courses](#) you can take to fulfill BU Hub requirements.
3. Academics can be challenging, so get help when you need it. There is free [peer tutoring](#) for many classes through the [Educational Resource Center \(ERC\)](#).

Get Excited

The first day of classes is
Wednesday, September 2!

Depending on your personal
schedule, some of your classes may
not start until later in the week.

Get Ready

Look at your schedule ahead of
time and use the [building
abbreviations](#) to find the address
for classroom buildings.

Get Connected

Schedule an appointment with
your academic advisor, or offices
like First-Year and Transfer
Success, using [MyBU Student](#).

Explore Your Academic Journey

- **Funded Research on Campus:** BU offers many high-impact experiences that take place outside of a traditional classroom. Conducting research is a particularly good way to deepen your knowledge, build relationships with professors, and practice skills like problem-solving, communication, and teamwork (hint hint: these are all skills that you'll need in your future jobs). Through the [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program \(UROP\)](#), open to all full-time undergraduates, you can apply to get paid to do research with faculty members! Keep an eye on the UROP website for upcoming [application deadlines](#).
- **Considering a Minor:** Pursuing a minor is optional. If there's an academic area you'd like to explore but not to the extent of a major, a minor might be a good fit. Minors usually require five to seven courses. When deciding whether or not to declare a minor, also think about what opportunities you might have to give up in order to complete these extra requirements and whether those trade-offs are worth it to you. (This is a great topic to discuss with your advisor). [A list of minors](#) is posted to the Bulletin.



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Student Leader Spotlight

Rosalind, Program Coordinator (PC)
College of Fine Arts (CFA) '27, Acting

Q. What's one academic mistake you learned from?

A. One academic mistake I learned from was not trusting myself. I made my linguistics class "pass/fail" because I was anxious about it, even though I was really interested in the subject. I ended up doing much better than I expected and realized I loved the challenge, but couldn't use the course for the linguistics minor I was considering. That experience taught me to trust myself more and not be afraid to take academic risks.

Q. What is something that has helped you in your academic journey?

Attending Professors' Office hours is incredibly valuable. They've helped me better understand course material, especially in larger classes where it can be harder to ask questions or build connections with professors. Those professors have shaped my academic goals and career path, and are people I hope to collaborate with postgrad.



Academic Exploration

Changing Classes

BU encourages you to explore your interests through the classes you take. **But what if you want to change your classes? You have the option to "add" a course and "drop" a course but be aware of the deadlines.** Your first step should be to use Class Search in [MyBU Student](#) to research other possible courses that have open seats. Next, talk with your academic advisor to make sure you understand the implications of making a change. The deadline to add a new Writing (WR) class to your schedule is Wednesday, September 9.

Many language courses require students to add by Thursday, September 10. The deadline to add most other courses is Wednesday, September 16. The deadline to drop a course without a [Withdraw \(W\)](#) grade is **Wednesday, October 7.**

Get Connected

Your Roadmap

Download the [first-year or transfer roadmap](#) to start planning out your undergraduate experience. You can also work on filling this out with your advisor!

Forward Thinking

Check out the ways your BU Hub courses can help you prepare for your future jobs.

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Helpful Links and Websites

Not sure where to look to find what resources you need? Here is a curated list of links to frequently used BU websites and resources:

- **Specialty courses:** [Specialty Courses](#) | [BU Hub](#)
- **Peer tutoring:** [Peer Tutoring](#) | [Undergraduate Advising & Student Success](#)
- **ERC:** [Educational Resource Center](#) | [Undergraduate Advising & Student Success](#)
- **Building abbreviations:** [Abbreviations & Codes](#) | [Office of the University Registrar](#)
- **MyBU Student:** <https://student.bu.edu/MyBU/>
- **UROP:** [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#)
 - [Deadlines](#) | [Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program](#)
- **A list of minors:** [Degree Programs » Academics](#) | [Boston University](#)
- **Add/drop deadlines:** [Semester Dates](#) | [Office of the University Registrar](#)
- **Withdraw (W) grade:** [Grades and Course Units » Academics](#) | [Boston University](#)
- **Roadmap:** [Roadmap](#) | [Undergraduate Advising & Student Success](#)
- **BU Hub courses:** [Hub and Your Career](#) | [BU Hub](#)



Inside Orientation: Academic Sessions

Putting Academics in Perspective

On Days 1 and 2 of Orientation, students will attend the “Academic Perspectives” events hosted by their colleges that will cover everything you need to know as you become a part of your college/school! Students are automatically registered for these events based on their college/school and are separate from the Friday-Monday elective sessions. These events may include:

- Presentations on the required courses by program
- Resources that schools and departments offer
- Opportunities to get to know the people in your college/school such as advisors, faculty, deans, and other students
- Learning about the mission of your college/department/program



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