Boston College will open the world to you and open you to the world. Nurturing the development of both intellect and character is a hallmark of Jesuit education. In our interdisciplinary programs, you have the opportunity to engage fundamental questions of human life from a variety of perspectives, linking classroom work to the world, exploring personal and complex problems, and enduring questions.

Exclusively for first-year students, these courses—which satisfy two Core requirements—are taught by faculty members from two different disciplines. Complex Problems courses are team-taught by faculty in two different disciplines. Class size is 76 students, with built-in opportunities to meet in smaller settings in weekly labs and evening sessions designed for reflection and integration. Enduring Questions courses are linked pairs of classes team-taught by faculty from different disciplines. The same group of students takes both classes and attends four reflection sessions over the semester. The professors collaborate in choosing common and complementary readings and discussion questions.

For registration information, please visit bc.edu/complexenduring.

The Courage to Know

This introduction to student formation in the Ignatian tradition offers students the opportunity to ask deeply personal and profound questions: Who am I? What am I good at? Who am I called to become? These questions are explored through the lens of developmental psychology, and the course uses literature, film, articles, and guest lectures to examine the roles that family of origin, race, class, gender, sexuality, faith, intimacy, and vocational studies play in our formation. In addition to classroom work, students will have the opportunity to participate in less formal activities outside of the classroom that explore Boston’s cultural offerings. This three-credit elective course is open to all first-year students in either the fall or spring semester. For those students in the Morrissey College taking this course in the fall semester, the course instructor will serve as academic advisor until the student is assigned a major across the University.

For registration information, please visit bc.edu/thecouragetoknow.

Freshman Topic Seminars

Freshman Topic Seminars are 12-week, one-credit electives that offer first-year students in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences the opportunity to meet once a week for small-group discussions (limited to 14 students) with a faculty member on a research topic of special interest to the instructor. The seminars are designed to allow students to explore new academic areas and require no background knowledge of the topic. Some recent topics include evolution, the role of the brain in human behavior, and modern African short stories.

The seminars give students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member in a more informal setting both in the classroom and outside in co-curricular activities around Boston. The instructor will serve as the student’s academic advisor for the entire first year.

For registration information, please visit bc.edu/freshmantopic.

Perspectives

In an academic year-long program, students engage with the work of great philosophers and theologians, from Socrates and Plato to Locke, Rousseau, and Kant. Over the course of four years, the seminar program immerses students in the development of Western philosophy and theology, as well as the student’s own exploration of these disciplines. Students are encouraged to bring their own questions and ideas to the discussion, which is free from the pressures of grading and academic performance. Students attend regularly scheduled class periods, as well as less formal sessions, and attend the annual Perspectives Conference. Students are required to complete four required and two electives in the Perspectives program.

For registration information, please visit bc.edu/perspectivesprogram.

Pulse Program for Service Learning

Primarily for second-year students, with space available for first-year students, PULSE programs, community service organizations, corrections facilities, homeless shelters, adult literacy programs, public health clinics, and community centers, among other areas. Students take a 12-credit, yearlong course in philosophy and theology entitled Person and Social Responsibility. Several PULSE elective courses are also offered.

PULSE’s mission is to educate students about social injustice by putting them into direct contact with marginalized populations and social change organizations while engaging in critical conversation with classic and contemporary works of philosophy and theology. By helping students make connections between course material and experience through community service, the program enables students to develop critical consciousness, to question conventional wisdom, and to learn how to work for a just society and become women and men for and with others.

For registration information, please visit bc.edu/pulse.
What is the best way to live? 

**Perspectives**

- Strong community among students and faculty
- Complex problems and enduring questions

**Informal small group exploration**

- Reframing, classroom to the real world
- PULSE Program for Service Learning

Who am I called to become?

- The courage to know

Who will you become?