

CSON Student Advising Guide

This advising guide has been created to help you develop questions and ideas regarding your academic and professional interests and goals, both short- and long-term. It supplements the information in the CSON Baccalaureate Program Handbook distributed at orientation (and available at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/son/current/undergraduateresources.html> see Connell School Baccalaureate Program Polices and Information link).

Your CSON faculty advisor's name can be found on your AGORA portal. Your advisor will contact you in the fall about setting up a meeting. You are required to meet with your advisor before registration each semester. At those meetings, you will receive your degree audit with the registration access code, discuss course planning and ask questions about opportunities for personal and professional growth. The Undergraduate Program Office also holds open advising sessions every semester and is always willing to answer any related questions.

Note that you may access your degree audit anytime through your AGORA portal. It is ultimately YOUR responsibility to make sure that all your graduation requirements are met.

Freshman Year CSON Student Advising Guide

Be Prepared to Discuss with Your Advisor:

My adjustment to college and academic progress: What are my strategies for maintaining healthy nutrition, reducing stress, and getting adequate sleep? What should I do if I feel overwhelmed with coursework or if I feel homesick or depressed or unhappy in my living situation? How do I manage my time so that I can balance the academic, social, and volunteer aspects of my life? What if I am in danger of not meeting the CSON freshman science GPA requirement of 2.0? Where can I get tutoring? How do I go about requesting accommodations for any learning or other disability?

- ✓ **My Future:** What are my interests, and where do I see myself going in the next four years and beyond?
- ✓ **The Core:** Have I familiarized myself with the Core Requirements? Which parts of the Core should I pursue first? Which Core classes have I placed out of with my AP or IB scores? See “Notes about Core Requirements for CSON Students” on the last page of this guide.
- ✓ **Study abroad:** Do I want to study abroad for a full semester or for a summer course? Students will be assigned to have either Fall or Spring of their Junior Year designated as “flexible” semester where they have the opportunity to study abroad. Students and advisors are notified of the “flexible” semester assignments before the course registration period in April.
- ✓ **Course Registration Period:** Will any of my courses have a discussion group, and do I need to register for that separately? How do I find out information about the course content and professors? Note that course syllabi and instructor evaluations may be accessed through the course listings in AGORA. Use these and the course descriptions in the catalog as a guide to your course selection.
- ✓ **My Extracurricular Interests:** What academic and non-academic extracurricular opportunities are available to students with interests similar to mine? Should I join the Student Nurse Association or run for class office? Your advisor may have suggestions about extra-curricular activities that would connect to your academic and long-term interests, so be prepared to discuss these.
- ✓ **Minors:** Should I try to minor in something? Most minors require 18 credits. Courses meeting some core requirements can also be used to meet minor requirements. See the “Fact Sheet on Connell School Minors” on the CSON undergraduate student resources webpage at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/son/current/undergraduateresources.html>
- ✓ **Advanced Study Grants:** What are Advanced Study Grants? How do I apply for one? These are opportunities for you to pursue summer projects with funding provided by Boston College (see <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ufel/fellowships/undergrad.html>)
- ✓ **Research opportunities:** Should I plan to apply for an undergraduate research fellowship in my junior year? (see <http://www.bc.edu/schools/son/research/fellowship.html>)

Sophomore Year CSON Student Advising Guide

Be Prepared to Discuss with Your Advisor:

Sophomore year is a very important year academically. As such, sophomores must come prepared to their advising meetings. As a sophomore, you should be sure to discuss the following:

- ✓ **My Future:** What are my interests, and where do I see myself going in the next three years and beyond?
 - *Try to identify future goals at Boston College and future goals beyond BC for yourself: goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound.*
 - *Be sure to start a portfolio of important documents, including immunization records, CPR cards, and copies of clinical evaluations from faculty.*
- ✓ **The Core:** Which core requirements do I still have to fulfill? How do I plan on fulfilling those courses?
- ✓ **My Study Abroad Plans:** Do I still plan on studying abroad? If so, where? How does this fit into my academic plan? How do I make an appointment to see a study abroad advisor at the Hovey House (Office of International Programs)? Will I have the necessary GPA and all of the requirements fulfilled? If I am studying abroad, will I still be able to fulfill all major and core requirements? What is the deadline schedule for the study abroad application processes? As an alternative to semester abroad programs could a summer study abroad course be a better fit? (see <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/progsummer.html>)
- ✓ **Honors:** What do I need to do to get into Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for nursing? (see http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/son/sigma/sigma.html)
- ✓ **Advanced Study Grants:** What are advanced study grants? How do I apply for one? These are opportunities for you to pursue summer projects with funding provided by Boston College (see <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ufel/fellowships/undergrad.html>)
- ✓ **Summer jobs/Internships:** what are the advantages of a summer internship? Should I try to get a summer job or internship (some are called “externships”) related to nursing? What is the difference between an internship and a job in a hospital? What other summer job options might be best for me?
- ✓ **How do I become a CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)?** Some healthcare agencies ask you to become a certified NA in order to work for them over the summer. You are eligible to take the CNA exam after you have completed NURS2231 (Adult Health 1). To get information about taking the exam in the Boston area, see <http://www.redcross.org/ma/boston/testing>. The fee is about \$90. You do not have to take the CNA course—just the test. If you need a letter or a reference, contact the undergraduate program office.
- ✓ **How do I write a résumé?** It’s never too early to explore the BC Career Center (see <http://www.bc.edu/offices/careers> for sample resumes and other important information). Look for notices about the spring sophomore/junior “Career night” in CSON.
- ✓ **Research opportunities:** Should I apply for an undergraduate research fellowship in my junior year? Applications are sent to the sophomore and junior classes in April (see <http://www.bc.edu/schools/son/research/fellowship.html>)
- ✓ What other fellowship opportunities are available from the University and should I apply? (see <http://www.bc.edu/offices/ufel/fellowships/undergrad.html>)

Junior Year CSON Student Advising Guide

Be Prepared to Discuss with Your Advisor:

At your advising meeting, juniors should discuss the completion of requirements for graduation and start planning for the opportunities that follow graduation.

The Core: Do I have any requirements left to fulfill? If so, how will I finish them in time for graduation?

- ✓ **My Study Abroad Plans:** What courses will I be taking abroad? How do I get these courses approved? If you're going abroad, try to work out the course-related details before leaving.
 - ✓ **My Résumé:** Update as necessary
 - ✓ **My Internship(s):** Do I have plans for a summer internship? Junior year is a great time to secure an internship as you prepare to graduate next year. Attend Career Fairs, talk to Career Center advisors, and utilize the many resources Boston College has to offer.
 - ✓ **My Electives:** Can I take courses that interest me pass/fail? Are there any university capstone courses that may work with my schedule? Am I considering an independent study project? See the guidelines on the CSON undergraduate student resources webpage at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/son/current/undergraduateresources.html>
 - ✓ **My Future:** What are my interests, and where do I see myself going in the next two years and beyond? What will I request for my Nursing Synthesis Clinical (NURS4263) placement? Might I apply to graduate programs at other universities? What nursing specialties am I most interested in?
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Senior Year CSON Student Advising Guide

Be Prepared to Discuss with Your Advisor:

At your advising meeting, seniors should be **sure** to discuss the following:

- Ensuring that you will fulfill all core and major requirements on time;
- Career opportunities and graduate school options in nursing or related fields
- ✓ **The Core:** Do I have any requirements left to fulfill? If so, how will I finish them in time for graduation?

- ✓ **My Electives:** Can I take courses that interest me pass/fail? Are there any university capstone courses that may work with my schedule? Am I considering an independent study project? See the guidelines on the CSON undergraduate student resources webpage at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/son/current/undergraduateresources.html> Should I take graduate level courses even if I am not participating in the BS/MS program? How many credits/courses do I have left to meet the graduation requirements? (this information is on the bottom of your degree audit)

- ✓ **My Future:** What are my interests, and where do I see myself going in the next year and beyond? Do I have a working copy of my resume? How do I go about asking faculty members for job or graduate school recommendation letters? When should I start to apply for jobs? Update the professional portfolio you started sophomore year.

- ✓ **My preparation for the NCLEX:** Will I take the BC review course in January and/or June? Another course? What is the best way to prepare, given my learning style and academic record? Students are expected to attend the meetings about NCLEX and licensure applications held by the Undergraduate Program Office.

Notes about Core Requirements for CSON Students

General Information: Core courses are labeled “Core” in the course listings and as “L” on the UIS course registration screen. A listing of core courses in each area may be found on the Core webpage at http://www.bc.edu/sites/core/core_requirements/2015-2016-core-courses.html (although not all courses are offered each semester). **Do not assume or accept an unconfirmed rumor that a course is a core--check !** If the course is not listed on your degree audit under the related core requirement, then it is not a core course; check this on your degree audit after you register each semester.

Specific requirements for CSON:

Writing: One core course. These courses are restricted to freshmen. Some CSON freshmen are unable to fit writing in because they take PULSE, Perspectives or other courses. If you are unable to register online for writing as a sophomore (or later), go to the English department office after you have registered for your other courses.

Literature: One core course. Most are listed under English (ENGL), but there are others in Classics (CLAS), German Studies (GERM), Romance Languages and Literatures (FREN, ITAL, RLRL, SPAN), and Slavic and Eastern Languages (EALC, LING, NELC, SLAV).

Fine Arts (ARTH), Music (MUSA, MUSP), Theater (THTR), Studio Art (ARTS): One core course.

History (HIST) – 2 core courses. You must take a history 1 and a history 2. You may take history 2 BEFORE history 1, and the courses do not have to be from the same sequence. Note that there are many different topic areas in the history core, and students are encouraged to read the course descriptions and choose a topic of interest. Please note that for instance America and the World I & II is only available to first-year students.

Philosophy (PHIL) – 2 core courses. You must take a philosophy 1 and a philosophy 2. Course offerings include PULSE and Perspectives, which requires you to take the Theology and Philosophy together with sections 1 in the Fall and sections 2 in the Spring. Please note that Philosophy of the Person I must be taken before Philosophy of the Person II. Note this is a change within the past academic year.

Theology (THEO) – 2 core courses. You must take a theology 1 and a theology 2. With the exception of Biblical Heritage I and II (where II may be taken before I), the Theology department requires that the 2 courses be from the same sequence and that they be taken in order. Students are encouraged to address theology core requirement early in the program because clinical scheduling in the junior and senior years can conflict with theology course times.

Social Sciences- 2 core courses from Economics (ECON), Nursing (NURS1210, Public Health), Political Science (POLI), Psychology (PSYC), Psychology in Education (APSY), or Sociology (SOCY)

Mathematics: CSON students fulfill the math core by taking MATH1180 (statistics). Students who for one reason or another do not complete MATH1180 must complete a course that meets core requirements elsewhere in the university (e.g. calculus, finite probability) in addition to another

statistics course (for instance a one-semester statistics course in psychology, sociology, economics, business, or biostatistics). In some cases (for instance transfer students who have been awarded math core credit for a calculus course), a statistics course outside a mathematics department can substitute for MATH1180 with the approval of the CSON undergraduate associate dean.

Cultural diversity- CSON students fulfill the cultural diversity requirement through Nursing foundations of practice courses.

Social Sciences- CSON students fulfill Social Science requirement through Nursing foundations of practice courses.

Natural science- CSON students fulfill the natural science requirement with their freshman science courses.