

Junior Year Advising Guide for Academic Advisors

This advising guide is to provide academic advisors with guidelines to support the advising process, and is geared toward the concerns of Juniors. Junior year is a time when students are well into a major, are possibly studying abroad, and their curriculum is often coming into better alignment with their personal interests and career goals. As juniors they are beginning to think more seriously about the future and their plans following graduation, whether it be pursuing another degree or entering the workforce.

We hope that advisors continue to have conversations about academic and personal goals, take an interest in how their major, minor and career goals are coming into better focus and if they are doing well mentally and socially.

In order to have the most productive advising meeting, you should be prepared to:

- Discuss their academic plan; including going abroad if relevant, and to make sure that their major and Core requirements will be fulfilled.
- Discuss [research opportunities](#), internship opportunities, and thesis requirements within the major.
- Ask about the student's interests, and where do they see themselves going in the next two years and beyond?

Study Abroad Plans:

- If the student is going abroad, try to work out the course-related details before leaving. Which Core/major/minor requirements will be met while abroad? Refer the student to the [Office of Global Education](#) for any additional support.
- If the student is returning to BC second semester, how did they enjoy the experience? Did it have any impact on my academic interests and goals?

The Core:

- Do they have any requirements left to fulfill? If so, how will they finish them in time for graduation?
- By the end of junior year, their Core requirements should be (for the most part) completed; if it is not or will not be, plan how to best allocate the final [Core requirements](#).

The Major & Minor:

- Do they have any major or minor requirements left to fulfill? If so, how will they finish them in time for graduation?

Electives:

- Are they considering independent research? Are readings and research courses offered? Can they do research in a lab for course credit?

- If there is room for elective courses, what classes outside of the major and minor meet their academic interests?

The Thesis:

- Are they going to write a thesis? If so, how does that fit into what classes they have to take this year?
- Suggest that they investigate thesis or research options with your department

Internship(s):

- Do they have plans for a summer internship or job? Does my major department support semester internships?
 - Junior year is a great time to secure an internship as they prepare to graduate next year.
- Suggest that they explore the [Career Center](#), and attend Career Fairs to start thinking about summer and post graduate opportunities.

Health and Wellness:

- Check-in about overall health and well-being.
- Even if your student appears to be doing well, make sure that they are aware of campus resources to support their [health and wellness](#).

For more information and advising resources, go to the Academic Advising Center's [website](#).