

Creating Degree Maps to Support Academic Momentum @ Brooklyn College

Degree Maps | Brooklyn College | Tracy Newton & Robert Booras

IN SUPPORT OF “ACADEMIC MOMENTUM” INITIATIVE

- Create degree maps for all 89 majors at Brooklyn College for academic year 2018-19
 - Phase 1: Degree maps for first-year students (2018-19)
 - Phase 2: Degree maps for transfer students (2019-20)
 - Phase 2a: Degree maps for meta majors (2019-20 & beyond)

“Degree Maps? For all 89 majors? Where do we begin?”



A TRULY COLLABORATIVE ENDEAVOR

- Solicit support of deans and department chairs
 - Solicit recommended course sequences i.e. “degree maps” from academic departments
 - Faculty buy-in
- Create user-friendly template to present degree maps
 - Standardize template & terminology (as much as possible)
 - Get formal approval from respective departments before publishing degree maps

SOME OF THE BENEFITS

- Improved communication & partnership with deans/schools and chairs or faculty advisors/academic departments
- Thorough reflection on curricula and course mapping (revealing embedded prerequisites & other miscellaneous inaccuracies)
 - Accountability, Transparency (tied to Financial Aid)

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

- Deciphering the submitted “degree maps”
 - Incorrect or inconclusive (some departments simply copied & pasted info from website or Bulletin)
- Checking for accuracy
 - The credits don’t add up
 - Major courses vs. recommended courses
 - Major courses that count as Pathways courses too
 - Uncovering embedded or incorrect/dated prerequisites
- Standardizing the template (making it user-friendly)

MAKE IT YOUR OWN

- Research/Review
 - Hunter, BMCC, NYC College of Technology
- Incorporate what you like
 - Identifying courses as major, Pathways, or general elective
 - The degree map as an aid to be used alongside Degree Works/Bulletin
 - Visual brevity (four-year plan on one page)
- Exclude what you don't like
 - Too much wordiness (stand-alone document listing all course choices)

TEXT, SUBTEXT, CONTEXT

- Text
 - Course codes, course titles, course credits
- Subtext
 - Course designations, recommended courses, placement exam, co-requisites
- Context
 - Endnotes (major tracks, concentrations, residency & minimum grade requirements, contact info, etc.)

THE TEMPLATE

FALL

ENGL 1010 Pathways Required Core	3
Math & Quantitative Reasoning Pathways Required Core	3
US Experience in its Diversity Pathways Flexible Core	3
SOCY 1101 Major	3
General Elective General Elective	3
<i>CREDITS</i>	<i>15</i>

SPRING

ENGL 1012 Pathways Required Core	3
Life & Physical Sciences Pathways Required Core	3
World Cultures & Global Issues Pathways Flexible Core	3
SOCY 2000-level or higher course Major	3
General Elective General Elective (WGST 1001 recommended)	3
<i>CREDITS</i>	<i>15</i>

MAJOR COURSES THAT ALSO FULFILL PATHWAYS REQUIREMENTS; MORE EXAMPLES OF “SUBTEXT”

39 Pathways Credits*

51 Major Credits

30 General Elective Credits

Students may apply a 2nd major, or a minor, toward their general elective credits

120 Total Credits

ENGL 1010 Pathways Required Core	3
MATH 1011 (Embedded Prerequisite) Pathways Required Core (Depending on math placement, some students may be required to take Math 1021 and Math 1026, in a two-term sequence, in lieu of Math 1011. See an advisor to confirm your math placement.)	3
AMST 1010 Major (Also fulfills Pathways Flexible Core)	3
AMST 9999 Major (AMST 1010 is a co-requisite for this course)	3
General Elective General Elective	3
CREDITS	15

ENDNOTE RE: MAJOR/PATHWAYS COURSES

- The Pathways curriculum is typically 42 credits. However, the American Studies B.A. major includes a course (AMST 1010) that also satisfies a Pathways requirement. Therefore, students majoring in American Studies B.A. only need to complete 39 additional Pathways credits.

DEGREE MAP SAMPLE

BROOKLYN COLLEGE – FOUR-YEAR DEGREE MAP Business Management B.S.

FALL			SPRING		
FIRST YEAR					
BUSN 3200		3	BUSN 3100		3
Major			Major		
CISC 1050 or CISC 1110 or CISC 1115		3	ACCT 2001		4
Major			Major		
ENGL 1010		3	ENGL 1012		3
Pathways Required Core			Pathways Required Core		
Flexible Core		3	Flexible Core		3
Pathways			Pathways		
Flexible Core		3	Flexible Core		3
Pathways			Pathways		
CREDITS 15			CREDITS 16		

SECOND YEAR		THIRD YEAR	
BUSN 3400 or ECON 3400	4	BUSN 3100 or ECON 2100	4
Major (Non-Pathways Required Core)		Major	
BUSN 2200 or ECON 2200	3	BUSN 3430 or CISC 2531	3
Major		Major	
BUSN Elective	3	BUSN Elective	3
Major		Major	
PHIL 3314	3	Life & Physical Sciences	3
Pathways Required Core		Pathways Required Core	
Flexible Core	3	Flexible Core	3
Pathways		Pathways	
CREDITS 16		CREDITS 16	

FOURTH YEAR		TOTAL CREDITS: 120	
BUSN 3410 or ECON 3410 or BUSN 3421 or CISC 2590 or MATH 1201	3	FINC 3310	3
Major		Major	
BUSN Elective	3	College Option	3
Major		Pathways	
ACCT 5201	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
CREDITS 15		CREDITS 15	

TOTAL CREDITS: 120		TOTAL CREDITS: 120	
BUSN 4000W or BUSN 4100W or BUSN 4101W or BUSN 4200W or BUSN 4202W or CISC 1580W or FINC 4300W	3	College Option	3
Major		General Elective	3
College Option	3	General Elective	3
Pathways		General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
General Elective	3	General Elective	3
CREDITS 15		CREDITS 12	

TOTAL CREDITS: 120

BROOKLYN COLLEGE – FOUR-YEAR DEGREE MAP Business Management B.S.

39 Pathways Credits*

51 Major Credits

30 Elective Credits

Students may apply a second major, or a minor, towards their general elective credits.

120 Total Credits

*The Pathways curriculum is typically 42 credits. However, the **Business Management B.S.** major includes a course (**BUSN 3400 or ECON 3400**) that also satisfies a Pathways requirement. Therefore, students majoring in **Business Management B.S.** only need to complete **39** additional Pathways credits.

The four-year degree map is designed to help you take the right courses in the right order so you can graduate in four years. It also helps you distinguish what courses qualify as Pathways courses, or Major courses, or Elective courses. Ideally, you should follow the four-year degree map as closely as possible, but you are free to make some adjustments.

In conjunction with the four-year degree map, you should review Degree Works, and the Brooklyn College website, for an approved list of courses in your major. Overall, it is best to review your academic plan with your advisor on a regular basis.

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TEAM RESOURCES

- Director, Academic Advisor, 4 NTAs—deans, chairs, faculty advisors
- Budget
- Computers, access to internet/Bulletin
- Various sites (can work remotely)
- CUNY-wide “Academic Momentum” initiative adds urgency



Degree Maps: Building a Bridge to Academic Success



NEXT STEPS

- Finalize all degree maps
- Establish process & workflow for annual revisions & updates
- Work with Communication Office to build website (featuring PDF & text versions)
- Create online/digital system where Degree Maps can live
 - Chairs can manage their degree maps