



A Guide to Your Sophomore Year



BROWN

Contents

Pages 2-3	Contents/Academic Resources
Pages 4-5	Identity Centers and Personal Resources
Pages 6-7	Concentration Declaration
Pages 8-9	Frequently Asked Questions

Academic Resources

Dean of the College

University representatives who provide support and advising across disciplines.

brown.edu/academics/college/people/responsibilities

1 Prospect Street

Curricular Resource Center for Peer Advising (CRC)

Peer advising about independent studies, concentrations, fellowships and research, leavetaking, sophomore year advising, and more.

brown.edu/go/crc

75 Waterman Street, Room 228

Concentration advisors/professors

bulletin.brown.edu/the-college/concentrations/

Academic Support Services

Academic peer coaching, tutoring and workshops

brown.edu/academics/college/support/

69 Brown Street, J. Walter Wilson,,Room 308

The Science Center

Academic support, tutoring, science-related workshops and a network of faculty and peer advisors.

www.brown.edu/academics/science-center

201 Thayer Street, Sciences Library, 3th Floor

The Writing Center

Individual & group writing support at any stage of the writing process. The Writing Center's English Language Learning also has specialists for students whose first language is not English.
brown.edu/academics/college/support/writing-center/
201 Thayer Street, Sciences Library, 5th Floor

Office of Global Engagement (OGE)

Support and coordination of Brown University's international and transnational activities both on campus and abroad through the Office of International Programs.
brown.edu/about/administration/global-engagement/
69 Brown Street, J. Walter Wilson, Room 420

Center for Careers and Life after Brown (CareerLAB) Workshops, alumni programs, online resources, and advisors to help you develop your individual career plan. CareerLAB offers advising for future jobs, internships, and careers.
brown.edu/campus-life/support/careerlab/
167 Angell Street

Student and Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) Coordinates and facilitates services for students, faculty, staff and visitors with physical, psychological, and learning disabilities.
brown.edu/campus-life/support/accessibility-services/
20 Benevolent Street

Don't wait until the
last minute to ask for help,
be proactive!

Identity Centers and Personal Resources

Health Services (Andrew House)

Wellness services, routine and urgent medical care. Students may make appointments with medical staff, as well as call Health Services for medical questions.

brown.edu/campus-life/health/services/

13 Brown Street

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)

Confidential crisis intervention, therapy, community outreach, and referral services. CAPS staff have experience in dealing with a broad range of emotional, social, identity, and adjustment-related issues.

brown.edu/campus-life/support/counseling-and-psychological-services/

69 Brown Street, J. Walter Wilson, Room 512

Brown Center for Students of Color (BCSC)

Serves as a gathering place for communities of color. Students are encouraged to build meaningful relationships across difference and develop racial and ethnic consciousness.

brown.edu/campus-life/support/students-of-color/

68 Brown Street

Office of the Chaplains & Religious Life (OCRL)

Seeks to create spaces within the University where questions can be voiced and explored openly, whether these concerns originate within religious, philosophical, ethical, or spiritual practice.

brown.edu/campus-life/spiritual-life/chaplains/

69 Brown Street, J. Walter Wilson, Room 410

First-Generation College and Low-Income Student Center (FLiCenter) Support for first-generation college and/or low-income student experiences, including international, undocumented and DACA students.
brown.edu/campus-life/support/first-generation-students/
201 Thayer Street, Sciences Library, 5th Floor

Sarah Doyle Women's Center (SDWC)
Programs and services to examine the multitude of issues around gender and allow research into and explore gender issues that extend into and beyond the classroom.
brown.edu/campus-life/support/sarah-doyle-center/
26 Benevolent Street

The Swearer Center
Opportunities for students to explore their passions in the classroom and wider community, and build skills, knowledge and relationships to lead lives of effective action.
brown.edu/academics/college/swearer
25 George Street

LGBTQ Center
A comprehensive range of programming, support and advocacy services. The Center works to create and maintain an open, safe, and inclusive environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning members of the Brown community.
brown.edu/campus-life/support/lgbtq/
Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center, Room 321

No matter what you want
to chat about, there's always
someone ready to listen!

Your Concentration Declaration

Come the end of your fourth semester, it will be time to declare your concentration! This can be both an exciting and stressful time for sophomores, so here are some guidelines to help you along your way.

What is an academic concentration?

- Focus area of study for a student's undergraduate educational experience
- In-depth study that centers on a discipline(s), equipping students to gain command of an area of knowledge sufficient to equip them to engage in meaningful and coherent efforts in that area

How do you decide on a concentration?

- Be reflective, introspective & honest with yourself about what you want to study
- Discuss your interests with others, such as trustworthy mentors, professors, individuals you respect, and concentration advisors who can give you an honest perspective
- Seek advice from the Curricular Resource Center (Matched Advising Program for Sophomores)

How will I declare my concentration?

- Declare your concentration through the ASK advising website - ask.brown.edu/home/
- Under the 'Declarations' tab, open 'Declare a new concentration'

Remember - Your concentration, while an important part of your academic experience, does not define the totality of your education at Brown.

Declaring Your Concentration (Online)

Review the requirements for your intended concentration (online via Brown Focal Point)

Meet with your concentration advisor to review your courses and discuss any issues or questions you may have regarding the concentration.

The best way to go about this is to look up your concentration advisor's office hours on the department website.

Complete a declaration in the Brown ASK Online portal: Indicate what courses you have taken & plan to take in your future semesters to meet all concentration requirements.

Complete the required essays.

Indicate a preferred concentration advisor (Optional), for some concentrations you are assigned one depending on your particular track.

Make any changes to your original declaration reflecting changes discussed with your advisor. Your advisor will review your declaration via ASK and you will be notified whether your declaration has been approved or needs revisions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I change my concentration or concentration track after I declare?

Yes! There is plenty of time to amend/change your concentration after the declaration deadline. If you think that you want to switch concentrations or switch tracks, consult your concentration advisor as well an advisor/faculty member in the prospective department.

What are the requirements to graduate?

30 courses, 8 semesters of full-time enrollment, 2 WRIT-approved courses throughout your time at Brown (1 during semesters 1-4, another one during semester 5-7). You can find WRIT courses on the Courses at Brown, with a "WRIT" filter. www.brown.edu/academics/college/degree/curriculum/writing-requirement

If I want to double concentrate, do I have to declare both concentrations by the April deadline?

No, you only have to declare one of the concentrations. You can add a second concentration any time up until the end of shopping period in your 7th semester.

Should I fill out/look through the ASK portal before meeting with my concentration advisor?

It would be helpful to have a general concentration layout of your course plan before meeting with your advisor. It is not required to complete the declaration, as the meeting with your concentration advisor is likely to be a preliminary conversation about your interest in the concentration you have selected, as well as your plan for the next four semesters.

Do I have to meet with my concentration advisor before I declare?

In general, yes, as many concentrations require that you do so to ensure that you understand the requirements and process. A few concentrations won't require this, but it is always a good idea to chat with an advisor, or a faculty member in the department before declaring. Bear in mind that the week leading up to the deadline is always super busy for advisors, so try to meet with them as early in the semester as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I want to do an IC (independent concentration), should I declare a concentration first?

Yes. You must declare a concentration via ASK before the deadline to avoid a hold placed against your ability to register for the next semester's classes. You can then pursue the separate IC declaration process with help from the Curricular Resource Center and IC advising committee.

Do I have to know right now whether I want to do a thesis? Not at all! On the ASK declaration form, it asks you to indicate interest in a thesis, but you are able to change this option as you continue through your years at Brown.

What do I write for the concentration essays?

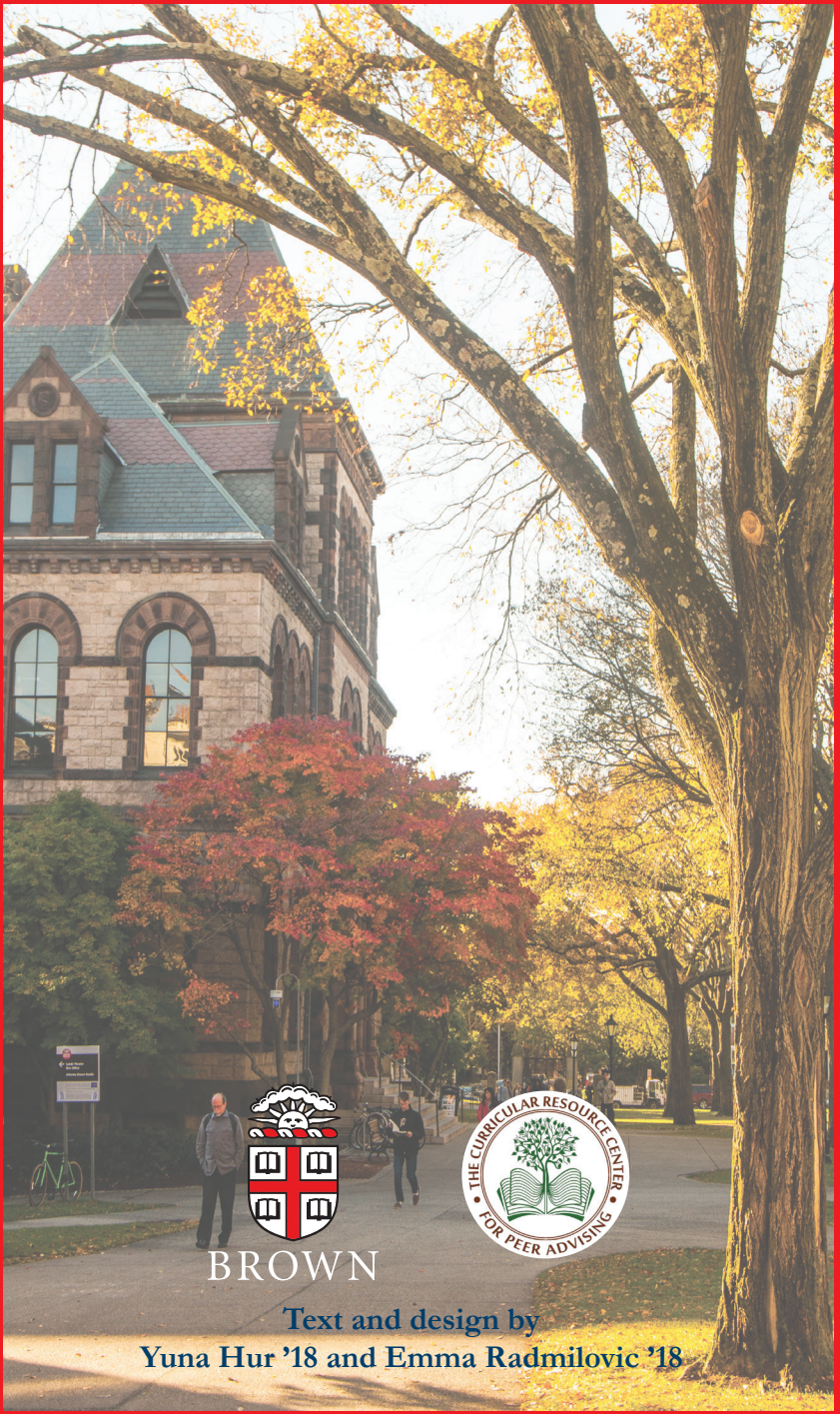
The essays are intended to demonstrate your interest in your chosen subject, and are a chance for you to explain how you came to choose that subject. You will be asked to write about how you will fulfill the Liberal Learning Goals and improve your writing skills, in an essay of 500-1000 words. Some departments also have supplemental essays in order to gain a better sense of your reasons for declaring.

Can I declare a concentration if I've only taken a few classes in that department?

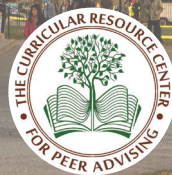
Yes, although for some concentrations with a lot of requirements this might be more difficult. As always, if you are in doubt, consult a concentration advisor in your prospective department to map a plan for fulfilling your requirements after declaring.

What happens if my declaration is denied?

Don't panic! Your advisor will recommend changes to your declaration, and once those changes are made, your declaration should be approved.



BROWN



Text and design by
Yuna Hur '18 and Emma Radmilovic '18