School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Cognitive Science (BS)

Cognitive Science is the study of complex information processing in humans and machines and includes the multidisciplinary study of biological and artificial systems. Important components of cognitive science include areas of research such as: cognitive-neuroscience, brain-imaging studies of perceptual and cognitive processing, situated cognition, Human-Computer-Interactions (HCI), computational modeling, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). The field of cognitive science draws from diverse approaches to understanding complex information processing, including research from experimental psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, philosophy, computer science, mathematics, and engineering.

The Cognitive Science program in the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at UT Dallas consists of three concentration areas: (1) Psychology/HCI, (2) Cognitive-Neuroscience, and (3) AI/Computational Modeling.

Cognitive Science Majors select the majority of their upper-division coursework from 2 of these 3 concentration areas in order to generate multidisciplinary areas of focus. In addition to providing a sound preparation for graduate work in Cognitive Science and related areas, the Cognitive Science major is an ideal choice for students pursuing careers that combine interests in neuroscience, cognition, mathematics, and computer science. There are exciting career prospects in both industry and academics for the Cognitive Science major.

Cognitive-Neuroscience Careers. Students whose focus area is cognitive-neuroscience will be well prepared for the pursuit of graduate degrees and careers associated with: medicine, clinical neuropsychology, brain-imaging technology, intraoperative neurophysiological monitoring, and evaluation of bionic/prosthetic technology (e.g., cochlear implants and artificial limbs). Students interested in Cognitive-Neuroscience career opportunities typically choose their core coursework from both the specialization areas of Psychology/HCI and Neuroscience.

Human-Computer-Interaction Careers. Students whose focus area is Human-Computer-Interactions (HCI), are prepared for the pursuit of careers in the areas of usability engineering and user-experience (UX) design and development that involve the evaluation and design of human-computer interfaces such as website and software graphical user interfaces (GUIs), smartphone interfaces, and voice-user interfaces (VUIs). Students interested in HCI career opportunities should choose their core coursework from the Psychology/HCI specialization area and include one or more HCI courses.

AI/Computational Modeling Careers. Students whose focus area is AI/computational modeling are prepared for the pursuit of careers associated with the development and evaluation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology (e.g., web search engines, speech recognition, robotics, computer vision, and computer games), bionic and prosthetic technology development and evaluation (such as cochlear implant technology), computer-based natural language understanding, data mining, and machine learning as well as the development of computational models to support theory.
development in the behavioral and brain sciences. Students interested in career opportunities in this area should choose their core coursework from the AI/Computational Modeling specialization area.

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science

Degree Requirements (120 semester credit hours)

Faculty

I. Core Curriculum Requirements: 42 semester credit hours

Communication: 6 semester credit hours

  COMM 1311  Survey of Oral and Technology-based Communication
  RHET 1302  Rhetoric

Mathematics: 3 semester credit hours

  MATH 2417  Calculus I
  or
  MATH 2413  Differential Calculus (Note: MATH 2417 is recommended)

Life and Physical Sciences: 6 semester credit hours

  Select 6 semester credit hours from Life and Physical Sciences core courses (see CGS advisor for options)

Language, Philosophy and Culture: 3 semester credit hours

  Choose one course from the following:
  HUMA 1301  Exploration of the Humanities
  LIT 2331  Masterpieces of World Literature
  PHIL 1301  Introduction to Philosophy
  PHIL 2316  History of Philosophy I
  PHIL 2317  History of Philosophy II

Creative Arts: 3 semester credit hours

  Choose one course from the following:
  AHST 1303  Survey of Western Art History: Ancient to Medieval
  AHST 1304  Survey of Western Art History: Renaissance to Modern
  AHST 2331  Understanding Art
  ARTS 1301  Exploration of the Arts
DANC 1310 Understanding Dance
DRAM 1310 Understanding Theater
FILM 2332 Understanding Film
MUSI 1306 Understanding Music

American History: 6 semester credit hours

Choose two courses from the following:

HIST 1301 U.S. History Survey to Civil War
HIST 1302 U.S. History Survey from Civil War
HIST 2301 History of Texas
HIST 2330 Themes and Ideas in American History
HIST 2332 Civil War and Reconstruction

Government / Political Science: 6 semester credit hours

GOVT 2305 American National Government
GOVT 2306 State and Local Government

Social and Behavioral Sciences: 3 semester credit hours

PSY 2301 Introduction to Psychology

Component Area Option: 6 semester credit hours

MATH 2419 Calculus II or MATH 2414 Integral Calculus (Note: MATH 2419 is recommended)
CGS 2301 Cognitive Science

II. Major Requirements: 48-54 semester credit hours (12 semester credit hours beyond Core Curriculum)

Major Preparatory Courses

The following are required for all concentration areas: (24 semester credit hours)

CGS 2301 Cognitive Science
CS 1337 Computer Science I
MATH 2417 Calculus I or MATH 2413 Differential Calculus
MATH 2419 Calculus II or MATH 2414 Integral Calculus
MATH 2418  Linear Algebra

PSY 2301  Introduction to Psychology

PSY 2317  Statistics for Psychology

or  CS 3341  Probability and Statistics in Computer Science and Software Engineering

Additional Preparatory Courses for AI/Computational Modeling Area (6 semester credit hours)

CS 2305  Discrete Mathematics for Computing I

CS 2336  Computer Science II

Major Core Courses required for all concentration areas: 12 semester credit hours

CGS 3361  Cognitive Psychology

NSC 3361  Introduction to Neuroscience

PSY 3392  Research Design and Analysis

CGS 3340  Experimental Projects in Cognitive Science

or  PSY 3393  Experimental Projects in Psychology

Major Related Courses: 24 semester credit hours

Select 4 courses each from 2 of the following 3 Concentration Areas

Core Courses for Psychology/HCI Concentration Area (select 12 semester credit hours from list of courses below)

CGS 3325  Historical Perspectives on Psychology: Mind and Machines since 1600

CGS 4359  Cognitive Neuroscience

CGS 4362  Perception

CGS 4352  Human Computer Interactions I

CGS 4353  Human Computer Interactions II

PSY 3331  Social Psychology

PSY 4343  Abnormal Psychology

PSY 2314  Lifespan Development

PSY 3310  Child Development

PSY 3362  Cognitive Development

Core Courses required for Cognitive-Neuroscience Concentration Area (select 12 semester credit hours from list of courses below)
**NSC 4352** Cellular Neuroscience  
**NSC 4354** Integrative Neuroscience  
**NSC 4356** Neurophysiology  
**NSC 4366** Neuroanatomy  
**NSC 4363** Neuropharmacology  
**NSC 4367** Developmental Neurobiology  
**NSC 4359** Cognitive Neuroscience  
**NSC 4353** Neuroscience Laboratory Methods  
**NSC 4357** Neurobiology of Learning and Memory  
**NSC 4362** Molecular Neuroscience  
**NSC 4371** Neural Plasticity  
**NSC 4373** Sensory Neuroscience  
**NSC 4385** Neuropsychology  

**Core Courses required for AI/Computational Modeling Concentration Area (select 12 semester credit hours from list of courses below)**

- **CS 3341** Probability and Statistics in Computer Science and Software Engineering  
- **CGS 3342** Cognitive and Neural Modeling Laboratory  
- **CGS 4312** Computational Modeling Methods for Language Understanding  
- **CGS 4313** Neural Net Mathematics  
- **CGS 4314** Intelligent Systems Analysis  
- **CGS 4315** Intelligent Systems Design  
- **CS 3345** Data Structures and Introduction to Algorithmic Analysis  
- **CS 4365** Artificial Intelligence  
- **CS 4375** Introduction to Machine Learning  
- **CS 4391** Introduction to Computer Vision  
- **CS 4395** Human Language Technologies  

**III. Elective Requirements: 24-30 semester credit hours**

Free Electives (24 semester credit hours for AI/Computational Modeling Concentration Area; 30 semester credit hours for other two concentrations)
Students are encouraged to explore areas of concentration in Cognitive Science, Psychology, and Neuroscience as well as explore interests outside the field. Be aware that at least 51 semester credit hours of upper-division semester credit hours are required for graduation. In addition, advanced CGS students in good academic standing may request permission from the Cognitive Science Program Head to take graduate Applied Cognition and Neuroscience coursework (ACN prefix) to fulfill some of the elective course requirements.

Fast Track Baccalaureate/Master’s Degrees

UT Dallas undergraduate students with strong academic records who intend to pursue a master's degree in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience at UT Dallas may consider an accelerated undergraduate-graduate plan of study. If accepted into the program, students may take up to 15 semester credit hours of graduate courses that may be used to complete the bachelor's degree and also to satisfy requirements for the Master's degree. Students must maintain a 3.000 grade point average and earn grades of B or better in the graduate courses taken.

Students should apply for Fast Track admission in the semester they reach 90 semester credit hours. To qualify for application, undergraduate students must have completed at least 18 semester credit hours in major core courses at UT Dallas. To be eligible for Fast Track admission, students must have completed at least 90 semester credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree and meet program admission requirements. Apply to the Fast Track program through the Applied Cognition and Neuroscience Program Office. Students should consult with a graduate advisor regarding admissions criteria and plans of study at the beginning of their junior year.

1. Incoming freshmen must enroll and complete requirements of UNIV 1010 and the corresponding school-related freshman seminar course. Students, including transfer students, who complete their core curriculum at UT Dallas must take UNIV 2020.

2. Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from institutions of higher education. The courses listed are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at UT Dallas.

3. A required Preparatory course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. Fourteen semester credit hours (14) are counted in Core Curriculum.

4. Note that either SE 3341 or STAT 3341 may be used as an equivalent course for CS 3341 for all Cognitive Science program requirements as well as all Cognitive Science course prerequisites.

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