INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The main objective of the discipline of Cognitive Science is to provide a framework for bringing all the many disciplines that study the mind together into a cohesive whole. Students in our program draw on psychology, linguistics, computer science, philosophy, neuroscience, and anthropology, among other fields, to illuminate how the human mind works, and why it works the way it does. Many influential ideas within cognitive science originated at Berkeley. The program draws on over forty affiliated faculty from a variety of departments, and is closely integrated with cognitive science research efforts across the campus.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Do a deep dive into a research topic with the Cognitive Science Honors program.
• Add an international perspective by studying abroad in Cognitive Science.
• Help other students in the major as a Cognitive Science Peer Advisor.
• Attend the Cognitive Science Student Association’s Annual Conference.

THE COGSCI CURRICULUM

UC Berkeley is one of relatively few institutions to offer an undergraduate major in Cognitive Science. The major curriculum moves from a broad introductory survey course to a six-course distribution requirement covering the philosophy of mind, cognitive psychology, linguistics, computational modeling and artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and various social sciences. After fulfilling their distribution requirements, students have the opportunity to concentrate further study in an area of their choosing, and, if eligible, complete an honors thesis. Some course requirements for the CogSci major can be difficult to enroll in due to high demand. The Cognitive Science peer and staff advisors are available to provide guidance for course enrollment.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit cogsci.berkeley.edu for news and updates. The CogSci Student Association also holds special events for students. Info can be found at: cogsci.berkeley.edu/people/cognitive-science-student-association.

ADVISING

Peer Advisors are available Fall and Spring semesters to answer questions about the major. Contact them at askcogsci@berkeley.edu or visit cogsci.berkeley.edu/peer-answering. Staff Advisors Catherine Byrne (clbyrne@berkeley.edu) and Mackenzie Moore (mackenziemoo@berkeley.edu) are available by appointment for advising. Please use the CalCentral appointment system to schedule.

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