COGNITIVE SCIENCE

Major Map

Explore the human mind from an interdisciplinary perspective.

The **Bachelor of Arts degree in Cognitive Science** in the College of Letters & Science offers undergraduates the opportunity to draw on psychology, linguistics, computer science, philosophy, neuroscience, and anthropology, and other fields to illuminate how the human mind works and why it works the way it does.

UC Berkeley is one of relatively few institutions to offer an undergraduate major in Cognitive Science, and Berkeley's program is almost unique in terms of the scope of our approach to the field. The program features over forty affiliated faculty from a variety of departments, and is closely integrated with cognitive science research efforts across the campus.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Do a deep dive into a research topic with the **Cognitive Science Honors Program**.
- Get involved with the **Cognitive Science Student Association's Annual Conference.**
- Teach your own CogSci course through the **DeCal program.**
- Help other CogSci students as a **Cognitive Science Peer Advisor.**

Photo credit: Brittany Hosea-Small

" *CogSci is a very wide major that touches upon a lot of different topics. ... Not only have I learned a lot of technical skills through coding courses, but I've also learned a lot about the anatomy and psychology of the brain.* **"**

—Isabella Pang, Cognitive Science & Business Administration

UC Berkeley

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM
Cognitive Science

CURRICULUM

Students in the Cognitive Science undergraduate program are expected to approach problems of knowledge using the tools of several different disciplines: philosophy, psychology, linguistics, computer science, neuroscience, and various social sciences. This expectation is reflected in a demanding **curriculum** that begins with a broad introductory survey course (COG SCI 1) and moves 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 the distribution requirements, you will have the opportunity to concentrate further study in an area of your choosing, and, if eligible, complete an honors thesis.

Learn more at cogsci.berkeley.edu/ undergraduate/

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Upon acceptance to Berkeley, you are admitted to the College of Letters & Science as an undeclared student. To **declare the CogSci major**, complete the major prerequisites and submit a declaration once your grades appear on CalCentral. CogSci staff will evaluate all applications on a rolling basis.

If you entered Berkeley as a freshman: submit the major declaration form after completing three semesters and before you begin your sixth semester. If you entered Berkeley as a transfer: declare the major before you begin your second semester at Berkeley.

COURSE SNAPSHOT

A diversity of **courses** is available to you as a CogSci student. As you put together a **program plan**, you will choose courses from cognitive science as well as math, psychology, linguistics, computer science, philosophy, molecular and cell biology, and more. For example:

COG SCI 88: Data Science and the Mind
COG SCI 115: Neuropsychology of Happiness
COG SCI 180: Mind, Brain and Identity
MCB C61/PSYCH C61: Brain, Mind, and Behavior
PSYCH 110: Introduction to Biological Psychology

Photo credit: Adam Lau

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

There is no limit to what you can do with a BA in Cognitive Science. The interdisciplinary nature of the CogSci degree makes graduates in demand in many industries. Program alumni work in fields such as machine learning, human-centered design, and software design/development. They also pursue advanced degrees in cognitive science, neuroscience, and computer science, while others attain professional degrees to practice medicine or law. Alumni also pursue post-graduate opportunities such as professional fellowships and public service programs.

Berkeley offers a number of career resources for CogSci students. The Cognitive Science program hosts information on **career exploration** and **graduate programs**, and sponsors the **Career Catalyst Program**. The College of Letters & Science offers **advising** for undergraduates pursuing medical or health professions programs, law school, or masters and PhD programs. Additionally, **Berkeley Career Engagement** provides career and graduate school advising, job and internship listings, and events such as career and graduate school fairs.

ALUMNI INSIGHT
Jane, class of 2021

Jane Lim graduated with a BA in Cognitive Science and certificate in Design Innovation. She currently works as a UX/UI designer for Google.

Why did you choose Cognitive Science?
I came into college with a lot of different interests, and CogSci was a very interdisciplinary major where I could combine a lot of them.

What skills did you learn?
I've learned a lot of technical skills through all the coding courses, and a lot of anatomy and science of the brain.

Any advice for future students?
Be open-minded to learning new things!

EMPLOYMENT

Alumni find employment in a variety of industries after completing the undergraduate program. Examples include:

Application Programmer
Computational Linguist
Data Analyst
Designer
Front End Developer
Fulbright Scholar
Linguistic Analyst
Logistics Manager
QA Engineer
Research Analyst
Software Engineer
Startup Founder
Teacher
Therapist
UX Designer
Web Developer

GRADUATE STUDY

Alumni pursue graduate education to gain more depth of knowledge in their field as well as prepare for jobs that require advanced degrees. Examples of graduate study pathways include:

Artificial Intelligence
Biostatistics
Cognitive Psychology
Computer Science
Education
Engineering
Information Technology
Linguistics
Neurobiology
Neuroscience
Public Health
Visual and Performing Arts

FOUR-YEAR STUDENT PATHWAY

Cognitive Science

UC Berkeley

	FIRST YEAR	SECOND YEAR	THIRD YEAR	FOURTH YEAR	SUMMER OPTIONS
Plan your studies	Explore Letters & Science and the university through **L&S 1** and **Berkeley Connect**. See an **L&S advisor** for help exploring **majors and minors**, and understanding **degree requirements**. Explore new topics in a **Freshman Seminar** or **DeCal** course. Familiarize yourself with the **CogSci major**. Check out **sample program plans** and talk to a **CogSci peer advisor**.	Continue exploring with a **Sophomore Seminar** or **Big Ideas** course. Complete CogSci prerequisites in statistical thinking, calculus, and computer programming, and **declare the major**. Start planning for a **certificate**, **course thread**, or **summer minor**.	Begin taking upper division electives from the Cognitive Science **comprehensive course list**. Review your **degree progress** with your **CogSci major advisor** and **L&S advisor**. If eligible, consider the **Cognitive Science Honors Program**.	Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to **graduate**. Finish all upper division requirements and electives. Complete any remaining **degree requirements**.	Get ahead on major requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course such as MATH 55 or CS 70, especially if you are planning to do the CogSci honors program. Get international experience through **Berkeley Summer Abroad** or the **UC Education Abroad Program**. Consider a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, **Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships.** Pursue a summer research project with support from the **SURF Program**.
Engage outside the classroom	Get familiar with resources from the **Student Discovery Hub**. Discover student organizations at the **Calapalooza** student involvement fair. Connect with the CogSci community via the **Cognitive Science Student Association (CSSA)** and **CogSci mailing list**.	Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours. Interested in research? Explore **CogSci research opportunities** and apply to the **Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP)**. Consider a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, Cal in Sacramento, or **Berkeley Global Internships**. Attend the annual **California Cognitive Science Conference**.	Planning a thesis or research project? Apply to the **Haas Scholars Program** or **SURF**. Spend a semester off campus through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCDC**. Apply to be a **CogSci peer advisor** and help other students in the major.	Submit a research paper to the **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal** or **Library Prize**. Interested in public service after graduation? Check out the **John Gardner Fellowship**, **Peace Corps**, **Teach for America**, and **U.S. Department of State**.	
Pursue your career goals	Visit the **Career Center** and the **Career Counseling Library**. Begin to explore **career paths** for CogSci majors. Conduct **informational interviews** to learn about different **career fields**.	Curious about **graduate school**? Check out planning resources from the **CogSci program** and **Step-by-Step**. Start attending **career and internship fairs**. Consider doing an **internship** to build your skills and explore fields.	Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors. Attend **career events** hosted by CSSA. Join a professional association such as the **Cognitive Science Society**. Apply to the **CogSci Career Catalyst Program**.	Connect with **alumni groups** such as the **CogSci Alumnx Network**. Meet employers at **Info Sessions**, **On-Campus Recruiting**, and **Career Fairs**. Apply for jobs. Utilize **job search tools** from Berkeley Career Engagement. Submit applications for graduate school and post-grad programs.	

Use this major map to help plan your undergraduate experience, including academic and co-curricular opportunities. Activities in this map are suggestions—always consult with your advisors whenever possible.

TRANSFER STUDENT PATHWAY
Cognitive Science

UC Berkeley

	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	THIRD SEMESTER	FOURTH SEMESTER	SUMMER OPTIONS
Plan your studies	Enroll in the **L&S 198 course Transitioning to Cal** and **Berkeley Connect**. Familiarize yourself with the **CogSci major**. Check out **sample program plans** and talk to a **CogSci major advisor**. Complete CogSci prerequisites in statistical thinking, calculus, and computer programming, and **declare the major**.	Plan now if considering a **certificate**, **summer minor**, or **study abroad**. Consider the **Cognitive Science Honors Program**, if eligible.	Review your **degree progress** with your L&S college advisor to ensure you are on track to fulfill all **degree requirements**. Check in with a CogSci major advisor about your **major requirements**.	Finish all upper division requirements and electives. Keep checking your APR for college, university, and major requirement satisfaction and **prepare for graduation**.	Get ahead on major requirements with a **Summer Sessions** course such as MATH 55 or CS 70, especially if you are planning to do the CogSci honors program. Get international experience through **Berkeley Summer Abroad** or the **UC Education Abroad Program**. Consider a summer internship with **Cal in the Capital**, **Cal in Sacramento**, or **Berkeley Global Internships**. Pursue a summer research project with support from the **SURF Program**.
Engage outside the classroom	Find support and community with the **Transfer Student Center**. Discover student organizations at the **Calapalooza** student involvement fair. Connect with the CogSci community via the **Cognitive Science Student Association (CSSA)** and **CogSci mailing list**. Interested in research? Explore **CogSci research resources** and apply to the **Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP)**.	Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours. Planning a thesis or research project? Apply to the **Haas Scholars Program** or **SURF**. Attend the annual **California Cognitive Science Conference**.	Help other students in the major as a **CogSci peer advisor**. Spend a semester off campus through **Berkeley Study Abroad** or **UCDC**. Give back as a **Transfer Student Center intern** or **Starting Point mentor**.	Submit a research paper to the **Berkeley Undergraduate Journal** or **Library Prize**. Interested in public service after graduation? Check out the **John Gardner Fellowship**, **Peace Corps**, **Teach for America**, and **U.S. Department of State**.	
Pursue your career goals	Visit the **Career Center** and **Career Counseling Library**. Start exploring **career paths** for CogSci majors. Conduct **informational interviews** to learn about different **career fields**. Start attending **career and internship fairs**.	Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors. Consider doing an **internship** to build your skills and explore fields. Curious about **graduate school**? Check out planning resources from the **CogSci program** and **Step-by-Step**. Apply to the **CogSci Career Catalyst Program**.	Connect with **alumni groups** such as the **CogSci Alumnx Network**. Attend **career events** hosted by CSSA. Join a professional association such as the **Cognitive Science Society**. Submit applications for graduate school and post-graduation programs.	Meet employers at **Info Sessions**, **On-Campus Recruiting**, and **Career Fairs**. Apply for jobs. Utilize **job search tools** from the Career Center.	

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LEARN MORE

Undergraduate Advising

Have questions about Cognitive Science or choosing a major?

The **Cognitive Science Program** offers undergraduate advising for students planning to major in CogSci. Advising is available from CogSci Peer Advisors and Major Advisors on a drop-in and appointment basis.

CogSci Peer Advisors offer guidance on course recommendations, CogSci research and careers, and why to major in CogSci. CogSci Major Advisors are available for all CogSci-related questions. Visit **cogsci.berkeley.edu/undergraduate-program/advising** for more information.

The **College of Letters & Science** helps students with non-major-specific academic topics, including major exploration, general program planning, and finding campus resources. L&S College Advisors are available for in-person and virtual meetings. Visit **lsadvising.berkeley.edu** or email **asklns@berkeley.edu**.

Related Programs

Looking for programs similar to Cognitive Science? UC Berkeley also offers the following major and minor programs:

- **American Studies**
- **Anthropology**
- **Computer Science**
- **Interdisciplinary Studies**
- **Linguistics**
- **Neuroscience**
- **Philosophy**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology**

Photo credit: Steve McConnell

Scan to explore more Major Maps!

majormaps.berkeley.edu

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