Researchers in the interdisciplinary field of Cognitive Sciences seek to understand such mental phenomena as perception, thought, memory, the acquisition and use of language, learning, concept formation, and consciousness. Some investigators focus on relations between brain structures and behavior, some work with computer simulation, some use experimental methodology, and others work at more abstract theoretical levels.

Bachelor's Program

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) Degree with a Major in Cognitive Sciences (https://ga.rice.edu/programs-study/departments-programs/social-sciences/cognitive-sciences/cognitive-sciences-ba/)

Cognitive Sciences does not currently offer an academic program at the graduate level.

Director
Simon J. Fischer-Baum

Professors
Michel Achard
Michael D. Byrne
Patricia DeLucia
Uriah Kriegel
Randi C. Martin
Frederick L. Oswald
James R. Pomerantz
Timothy Schroeder
Charles R. Stewart
Devika Subramanian
Marina Vannucci

Associate Professors
Robert Englebretson
Simon J. Fischer-Baum
Caleb Kemere
Suzanne E. Kemmer
Philip T. Kortum
David M. Lane
Nancy A. Niedzielski

Assistant Professors
Bryan Denny
Stephanie Leal
Lan Li

Alexander Morgan
Xaq Pitkow

Professors Emeriti
Steven J. Cox
Richard E. Grandy
Don Herrick Johnson
Mark Kulstad
Sydney M. Lamb
David J. Schneider
Stephen A. Tyler
James Young

Teaching Professor
David R. Caprette

Assistant Teaching Professor
Jonathan R. Flynn

Senior Lecturers
Özge Gürcanli
Carissa A. Zimmerman

Lecturers
John Greiner
Jonathan Manker
Bart Moore

For Rice University degree-granting programs:

To view the list of official course offerings, please see Rice's Course Catalog (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)

To view the most recent semester's course schedule, please see Rice's Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/ISWKSCAT.cat)

Cognitive Sciences (CSCI)

CSCI 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Cognitive Sciences
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Internship/Practicum
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Lower-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.
CSCI 340 - METHODS OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Short Title: METHODS OF COGNITIVE SCIENCE
Department: Cognitive Sciences
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Lecture
Credit Hours: 3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Cognitive science is a basic science of mental operations in humans, animals, and artificial systems. It is a highly interdisciplinary endeavor that draws on philosophy, psychology, biology, linguistics, and computer science, among other traditional disciplines. This course provides an integrated introduction to the primary empirical methods for studying the human mind. Students will learn how the scientific method is applied to study mental information representation, manipulation, and utilization in natural and artificial cognitive systems. It will teach students to understand and evaluate existing methodological approaches as well as recognize what is necessary to replicate results. Topics include the philosophical foundations of cognitive science, basic methods of cognitive psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, computational modeling, data analysis, and ethical responsibility when conducting cognitive research.

CSCI 390 - SUPERVISED RESEARCH IN COGNITIVE SCIENCES
Short Title: SUPERV RESRCH COGNITIVE SCI
Department: Cognitive Sciences
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 1-3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Supervised research on topics relevant to the cognitive sciences. Limited to majors in Cognitive Sciences. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

CSCI 477 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Cognitive Sciences
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Seminar, Lecture, Laboratory
Credit Hours: 1-4
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Topics and credit hours vary each semester. Contact department for current semester's topic(s). Repeatable for Credit.

CSCI 481 - HONORS PROJECT
Short Title: HONORS PROJECT
Department: Cognitive Sciences
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Research
Credit Hours: 1-3
Restrictions: Enrollment is limited to Undergraduate, Undergraduate Professional or Visiting Undergraduate level students.
Course Level: Undergraduate Upper-Level
Description: Independent directed research toward preparation of an undergraduate honors project or thesis. Instructor Permission Required. Repeatable for Credit.

Description and Code Legend
Note: Internally, the university uses the following descriptions, codes, and abbreviations for this academic program. The following is a quick reference:

Course Catalog/Schedule
• Course offerings/subject code: CSCI

Program Description and Code
• Cognitive Sciences: CSCI

Undergraduate Degree Description and Code
• Bachelor of Arts degree: BA

Undergraduate Major Description and Code
• Major in Cognitive Sciences: CSCI

Undergraduate Major Areas of Specialization Descriptions and Attribute Codes
• Area of Specialization in Linguistics: CSLN
• Area of Specialization in Neuroscience: CSNR
• Area of Specialization in Philosophy: CSPH
• Area of Specialization in Psychology: CSPS

Please Note: Areas of Specialization are department/program-specific and are not formally recognized academic credentials. Unlike Major Concentrations, Areas of Specialization do not appear on the student’s official academic transcript, etc.

CIP Code and Description
• CSCI Major/Program: CIP Code/Title: 30.2501 - Cognitive Science

* Systems Use Only: this information is used solely by internal offices at Rice University (such as OTR, GPS, etc.) and primarily within student information systems and support.

1 Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) 2020 Codes and Descriptions from the National Center for Education Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/