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

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Uriah Kriegel
Randi C. Martin
Frederick L. Oswald
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Assistant Teaching Professor

Jonathan R. Flynn

Senior Lecturers

Özge Gürcanli
Carissa A. Zimmerman

Lecturers

John Greiner
Jonathan Manker
Bart Moore

Adjunct Faculty

Xaq Pitkow

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/SWKSCAT.cat?p_action=cata)
To view the most recent semester’s course schedule, please see Rice’s Course Schedule (https://courses.rice.edu/admweb/SWKSCAT.cat)

Cognitive Sciences (CSCI)

CSCI 238 - SPECIAL TOPICS
Short Title: SPECIAL TOPICS
Department: Cognitive Sciences
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
Course Type: Internship/Practicum, Laboratory, Lecture, Seminar, Independent Study
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  
• Area of Specialization in Computation: CSCS
• 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.

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