Behavioral Decision Sciences

Leading to a Bachelor of Arts, the study of decision making at Brown covers descriptive questions like how people, institutions, and nations make judgments and decisions; normative questions about rationality, such as what constitutes the best judgments and decisions; and prescriptive questions, such as how the process of decision making can be improved to make actual decisions closer to optimal ones. By virtue of its broad interdisciplinary nature, the study of decision making covers work found in a variety of more traditional disciplines including psychology, cognitive science, economics, philosophy, computer science, and neuroscience. Professor Steven Sloman (steven_sloman@brown.edu?subject=Behavioral%20Decision%20Sciences) is the concentration advisor. Upon declaring, concentrators are also encouraged to speak with the appropriate area specialist from among those listed here (https://www.brown.edu/academics/cognitive-linguistic-psychological-sciences/behavioral-decision-sciences/).

Standard Program for the AB Degree

CLPS Classes:		
CLPS 0220	Making Decisions	1
Choose one of the following:		1
CLPS 0400	Cognitive Neuroscience	
CLPS 0200	Human Cognition	
CLPS 0700	Social Psychology	
Choose one of the following:		1
CLPS 1280B	Special Topics in Cognition: Collective Cognition	
CLPS 1280C	Topics in Cognition: Information and Decision Making	
CLPS 1470	Mechanisms of Motivated Decision Making	
CLPS 1495	Affective Neuroscience	
CLPS 1560	Visually-Guided Action and Cognitive Processes	
CLPS 1730	Psychology in Business and Economics	
CLPS 1750	Blame and Punishment	
CLPS 1760	The Moral Brain	
CLPS 0710	The Psychology and Philosophy of Happiness	
Distribution Requirements:		
Select one Introductory Course from the following:		1
ECON 0110	Principles of Economics	
CSCI 0111	Computing Foundations: Data	
CSCI 0150	Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science	
CSCI 0170	Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction	
CSCI 0180	Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction	
CSCI 0190	Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science	
Select Two Advanced Courses From:		2
CSCI 1410	Artificial Intelligence	
CSCI 1420	Machine Learning	
ECON 1090	Introduction to Game Theory	
ECON 1110	Intermediate Microeconomics	
ECON 1130	Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical)	
ECON 1170	Welfare Economics and Social Choice Theory	
ECON 1200	History of Economic Thought	
ECON 1805	Economics in the Laboratory	
ECON 1820	Theory of Behavioral Economics	
ECON 1870	Game Theory and Applications to Economics	
PHIL 1610	Decision Theory: Foundations and Applications	
PHIL 1430	Moral Theories	
SOC 1311	Micro-Organizational Theory: Social Behavior in Organizations	
SOC 1315	Macro-Organizational Theory: Organizations in Social Context	
Methods Classes:		
Basic Probability and Statistics. Choose One From the Following:		1
APMA 0650	Essential Statistics	
APMA 1650	Statistical Inference I	
CLPS 0900	Statistical Methods	
CSCI 1450	Advanced Introduction to Probability for Computing and Data Science	
DATA 0200	Data Science Fluency	
ECON 1620	Introduction to Econometrics	
Plus One of the Following (Advanced Methods):		1
CLPS 0950	Introduction to programming	
CSCI 0111	Computing Foundations: Data	
CSCI 0150	Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science	
CSCI 0170	Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction	
CSCI 0190	Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science	
CSCI 0200	Program Design with Data Structures and Algorithms	
ECON 1630	Mathematical Econometrics I	
ECON 1660	Big Data	
SOC 1120	Market and Social Surveys	
SOC 1260	Market Research in Public and Private Sectors	
Plus Choose One From the Following (Research Design and Methods):		1
CLPS 1791	Laboratory in Social Cognition	
CLPS 1890	Laboratory in Psycholinguistics	
CLPS 1900	Research Methods And Design	
CLPS 1901	Research Methods	
ECON 1629	Applied Research Methods for Economists	
ENVS 1920	Methods for Interdisciplinary Environmental Research	
IAPA 1500A	Ethnographic Research Methods	
POLS 1600	Political Research Methods	
SOC 1020	Methods of Social Research	
Electives:		**3**
Students will choose three additional courses in consultation with a concentration advisor that will constitute an integrated specialization in some area of decision science. Any advanced course taught at Brown is eligible.		
Capstone:		**1**

Fall seminar in which students write an integrative paper or do a project covering their areas of study in their senior year. The project will offer a novel discovery, either by collecting new data, offering a novel conceptual analysis, or developing a new computational or mathematical model. Reviews confined to existing literature, analyses or existing industries, and business plans are not appropriate.	
Total Credits	**13**

[1] Students may not use the same course to satisfy both the Introductory and Methods course requirements.

Students will be expected to take no more than 6 courses below the 1000-level within the concentration. Students with multiple concentrations may not apply more than 2 courses from a second concentration to the AB in Behavioral Decision Sciences. Students are responsible for satisfying all prerequisites for courses they plan to take.

Honors

The Honors Program in BDS gives undergraduates a special opportunity to carry out a research project under the direction of a faculty member that they have developed a relationship with. The program also provides the opportunity for senior concentrators to receive their undergraduate degree with Honors. Participation in the program allows students to develop an understanding of research and acquire research skills and background.

Candidates for Honors in BDS must meet all of the requirements of the BDS concentration as described above. Candidates submit their application for the program at the beginning of semester 7. We encourage students to seek out a faculty mentor prior to semester 7 and to complete their methods courses and two of their three electives before semester 7. Please refer to the CLPS Honors Program page for detailed information about the specific requirements for the Honors Program in BDS.