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) 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:

Choose one of the following: 1

- CLPS 0220 Making Decisions
- CLPS 0400 Cognitive Neuroscience
- CLPS 0200 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
- 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
- ECON 1900 Research Methods
- ECON 1906 Advanced Introduction to Probability for Computing and Data Science
- ECON 1908 Advanced 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.