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 their 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 two of the following: 2
  CLPS 1470 Mechanisms of Motivated Decision Making
  CLPS 1495 Affective Neuroscience
  CLPS 1730 Psychology in Business and Economics
  CLPS 1760 The Moral Brain

Distribution Requirements:

Select one Introductory Course from the following: 1
  ECON 0110 Principles of Economics
  CSCI 0040 Introduction to Scientific Computing and Problem Solving
  or CSCI 0150 Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science
  or CSCI 0170 Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
  or CSCI 0180 Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
  or CSCI 0190 Accelerated Introduction to Computer Science

Select Two Advanced Courses From:

  CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence
  CSCI 1420 Machine Learning
  ECON 1110 Intermediate Microeconomics
  or ECON 1130 Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical)
  ECON 1660 Big Data
  ECON 1820 Theory of Behavioral Economics
  ECON 1870 Game Theory and Applications to Economics
  PHIL 0580 Philosophy of Economics
  PHIL 1550 Decision Theory: Foundations and Applications

Methods Classes:

Choose One From the Following: 1
  APMA 0650 Essential Statistics
  APMA 1650 Statistical Inference I
  CLPS 0900 Statistical Methods
  CSCI 0100 Data Fluency for All

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. Such courses might include, but are not limited to:

Psychology and Cognitive Science
  CLPS 0950 Introduction to programming
  CLPS 1292 Introduction to Programming for the Mind, Brain and Behavior
  CLPS 1370 Pragmatics
  CLPS 1970 Directed Reading in Cognitive, Linguistic and Psychological Sciences

Economics:
  ECON 1820 Theory of Behavioral Economics
  ECON 1870 Game Theory and Applications to Economics

Applied Mathematics:
  APMA 0200 Introduction to Modelling
  APMA 1690 Computational Probability and Statistics
  APMA 2640 Theory of Probability II
  APMA 2821V Neural Dynamics: Theory and Modeling

Philosophy:
  PHIL 0500 Moral Philosophy
  PHIL 1650 Moral Theories
  PHIL 1750 Epistemology

Computer Science:
  CSCI 1430 Computer Vision
  CSCI 1460 Computational Linguistics
  CSCI 1951A Data Science

Political Science:
  POLS 1090 Polarized Politics
  POLS 1150 Prosperity: The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation
  POLS 1470 International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Public Health:
  PHP 1740 Principles of Health Behavior and Health Promotion Interventions

Capstone: 1

Fall seminar in which students write an integrative paper or do a project covering their areas of study in their senior year.

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. No more than 2 courses can be transferred from another institution to count toward concentration credit.
Honors

Students interested in honors should identify a faculty honor's sponsor and sign up with the concentration advisor during Semester 6. Although there is no minimum grade point average to enter the program, admission to the program is limited to students who have accumulated a strong academic record, and show evidence that they will meet the program's requirements. It is expected that honors candidates will conduct a year-long research project under the direction of a faculty sponsor culminating in a written thesis at the end of Semester 8. Honors theses can serve to satisfy the capstone requirement, although honors students are expected to attend the capstone seminar in the fall of their senior year.
Font Notice

This document should contain certain fonts with restrictive licenses. For this draft, substitutions were made using less legally restrictive fonts. Specifically:

Helvetica was used instead of Arial.

The editor may contact Leepfrog for a draft with the correct fonts in place.