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 Decision Sciences) 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 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.