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 0400 Cognitive Neuroscience
- CLPS 0200 Social Psychology
- CLPS 0700 Social Psychology

Choose two of the following: 2

- CLPS 1280B Special Topics in Cognition: Collective Cognition
- 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 0040 Introduction to Scientific Computing and Problem Solving
- or CSCI 0111 Computing Foundations: Data
- 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: 2

- CSCI 1410 Artificial Intelligence
- CSCI 1420 Machine Learning
- ECON 1090 Introduction to Game Theory
- ECON 1110 Intermediate Microeconomics
- or 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

Introductory Courses:

- ECON 1820 Theory of Behavioral Economics
- ECON 1870 Game Theory and Applications to Economics
- PHIL 1610 Decision Theory: Foundations and Applications
- SOC 1311 Micro-Organizational Theory: Social Behavior in Organizations
- SOC 1315 Macro-Organizational Theory: Organizations in Social Context

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
- CSCI 1450 Advanced Introduction to Probability for Computing and Data Science
- ECON 1620 Introduction to Econometrics

Plus One of the Following: 1

- CLPS 1791 Laboratory in Social Cognition
- CSCI 0150 Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming and Computer Science
- CSCI 0170 Computer Science: An Integrated Introduction
- ECON 1629 Applied Research Methods for Economists
- ECON 1630 Mathematical Econometrics I
- ECON 1660 Big Data
- PHIL 0640 Logic
- SOC 1120 Market and Social Surveys
- SOC 1260 Market Research in Public and Private Sectors

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

Psychology and Cognitive Science:

- 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 1690 Computational Probability and Statistics
- APMA 2640 Theory of Probability II
- APMA 2821V Neural Dynamics: Theory and Modeling

Philosophy:

- PHIL 1430 Moral Theories
- PHIL 1705 Epistemology

Computer Science:

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

Political Science:

- POLS 1090 Polarized Politics
Behavioral Decision Sciences

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLS 1150</td>
<td>Prosperity: The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation</td>
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<tr>
<td>POLS 1470</td>
<td>International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Public Health:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHP 1740</td>
<td>Principles of Health Behavior and Health Promotion Interventions</td>
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**Capstone:**

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. 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.