

Cognitive Science Orientation

August 26, 2025



Agenda



Introduction



Program
Overview



Advising



Student Life-
SACS



Panel and
Q&A



Ross Otto

Director, Cognitive Science Program

Associate Professor, Dept of Psychology

Ph.D. Psychology, Univ. of Texas at Austin 2012

B.S. Cognitive Science, UCLA 2005

Liana Hall DuMond

Cognitive Science Program Advisor

Student Panel

U3 Cognitive Science

CogSci Program

What is cognitive science?

Why should I choose this program?

Advising

Liana Hall DuMond -Program Advisor

Science Office of Undergrad.

Student Advising(SOUSA)

Adams Building - room 23 (1st floor)

liana.hall@mcgill.ca

Add/drop period:

- 15 min one on one appointments
- 5 min drop in zoom

www.mcgill.ca/cogsci/advising/advising-appointments



CogSci Program

Interfaculty Program Cognitive Science - 54 credits

Honours Cognitive Science - 60 credits

Minor Cognitive Science – 24 credits

www.mcgill.ca/cogsci/programs

How to plan?

Most important tip: PLAN AHEAD!

DO NOT USE:

- Degree Evaluation
- My Progress

Checklist:

www.mcgill.ca/cogsci/advising

Student Name: _____ Student ID: _____ Grad term/year: _____

Interfacuity Program Cognitive Science (54 credits)
 Honours Cognitive Science (60 credits)

Core Courses (24 credits)

<input type="checkbox"/> NSCI 201 Introduction to Neuroscience 2	<input type="checkbox"/> LING 201 Introduction to Linguistics
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 230 Logic and Computability	<input type="checkbox"/> LING 210 Introduction to Speech Science
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 318 Mathematical Logic	<input type="checkbox"/> LING 260 Meaning in Language
<input type="checkbox"/> PHIL 210 Introduction to Deductive Logic 1	<input type="checkbox"/> PHIL 200 Introduction to Philosophy 1
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 202 Foundations of Programming	<input type="checkbox"/> PHIL 201 Introduction to Philosophy 2
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 204 Computer Programming for Life Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/> PHIL 221 Intro to the History and Philosophy of Science 2
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 250 Introduction to Computer Science	<input type="checkbox"/> NSCI 200 Introduction to Neuroscience 1
<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 204 Intro to Psychological Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 211 Introductory Behavioural Neuroscience
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 203 Principles of Statistics 1	<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 212 Perception
<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 323 Probability	<input type="checkbox"/> PSYC 213 Cognition

Complementary Courses (30 credits): 15 credits must be 400+ level

18 cr. from one of the five areas below. Area: _____

12 cr. chosen from any of the complementary courses below: _____

Notes: _____

Computer Science

<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 206 Introduction to Software Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 451 Fundamentals of Machine Learning
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 250 Introduction to Computer Science	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 523 Language-based security
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 251 Algorithms and Data Structures	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 527 Logic and Computation
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 280 History and Philosophy of Computing	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 531 Advanced Theory of Computation
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 302 Programming Languages and Paradigms	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 546 Computational Perception
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 330 Theory of Computation	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 549 Brain-inspired Artificial Intelligence
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 345 From Natural Language to Data Science	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 550 Natural Language Processing
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 360 Algorithm Design	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 551 Applied Machine Learning
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 400 Project in Computer Science	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 558 Fundamentals of Computer Vision
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 409 Concurrent Programming	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 562 Theory of Machine Learning
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 417 Introduction Robotics and Intelligent Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 579 Reinforcement Learning
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 421 Database Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 222 Calculus 3
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 424 Artificial Intelligence	<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 223 Linear Algebra
<input type="checkbox"/> COMP 445 Computational Linguistics	<input type="checkbox"/> MATH 240 Discrete Structures

Linguistics

Any course at the 300, 400 or 500 level from the department of Linguistics, or from the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> LING 201 Introduction to Linguistics	<input type="checkbox"/> LING 260 Meaning in Language
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Course Selection

How do I know what classes to take?

What prereqs do I need?

What stream/area of focus should I choose?

Watch the videos and consult the pdfs for your stream and the “Planning Tips” documents:

www.mcgill.ca/cogsci/advising/orientation

CEGEP/AP/IB/FB equivalences

www.mcgill.ca/transfercredit/prospective

Common Mistakes

1

Not meeting with your advisor regularly 😊

2

Not planning ahead for the 15 credits of 400+ level complementary courses

3

BA&Sc rules: **120 credits** total and **21 credit rule** (balance arts and sci courses)

4

Missing minor program requirements

5

Taking a course you don't have the prerequisites for

Other Resources

FALL DATES & DEADLINES

Sept 9: Add/drop and S/U

Sept 16: Course Withdrawal with refund

Oct 28: Course Withdrawal NO refund

Dec 3: Last day of classes

Dec 5-19: Exam period

RESEARCH

www.mcgill.ca/cogsci/research

www.mcgill.ca/science/research/undergraduate-research

www.mcgill.ca/arts-internships/research

What is SACCS?

Student Association of Cognitive Science

Where to find us:

www.cogsci-mcgill.com/

www.instagram.com/cogsci_mcgill/

Resources:

- [CogSci Course Review Handbook](#)
- [Buddy Program](#)
- [Research guide](#)



Our events

Academic

- Lab Tours
- Course Planning
- Study sessions

Professional

- Interview skills workshop
- Alumni Panel
- Networking sessions

Social

- Welcome Back Picnic (Sept 10, 2-5pm)
- Wine & Cheese Networking
- Trivia, Apartment Crawls, etc.

Student Panel

Leatisha

Cogsci -Neuro
Comp Sci
Ottawa, ON

Keya

Cogsci -Comp
South Asian St
Montreal

Sydney

Cogsci -Pysch
Jewish Studies
Toronto, ON

Aasha

Cogsci-Neuro
Inter Life Sci
Markham,
ON

Sofia

Cogsci-Neuro
Soc. Stud Med
Courtenay,
BC

Mai

Cogsci-Psych
Comms
Amman,
Jordan



THANK YOU!