

COGSCI COURSE PLANNING TIPS – For CEGEP students

Have questions? Who do I ask? The BA&Sc degree advisor or the CogSci program advisor?

You probably need to consult with both depending on your questions! Start by understanding the degree requirements and program options then meet with the cogsci advisor.

BA&Sc advisor and the BA&Sc website:

- Understand the degree requirements before starting on your cogsci planning. The rules of the degree may impact your choice of major/minor or your course selection.
- Resources for understanding the programs available to you, registration tips, first year course load, policies of the degree and much more.
- Your degree advisor is there to help plan your first year, understanding the requirements of the degree, advise you on program selection (choosing both your major and minor programs), what is the ideal course load, talk about advanced standing, etc.

CogSci Program Advisor: Liana Hall DuMond

- I am here to help students with the course selection and planning for the Cognitive Science program specifically.
- For CEGEP students this means that we should probably meet to review your plan sometime over the summer before fall term begins.

Please review all this information below before scheduling an appointment

How to prepare for CogSci and how this could impact your first-year course selection:

1. Understanding the five streams or areas of focus within cogsci and picking your path

This is the most critical first question that is needed for planning your cogsci program, *which is the area that you want to focus on within cogsci?*

The nature of an interdisciplinary program is that there are many different pathways and options for students to tailor their course selection to suit their interests and goals. This means there is more planning ahead needed to complete the program requirements, but this also means that you have a wide range of options and opportunities which is partly why students really like this program.

2. If you are not sure which cogsci stream you want

It would be a good idea to take some courses in first year to help you explore your options and narrow down your interests. If you have room in your schedule, consider taking one or two core courses from cogsci to help you explore.

3. Once you know the stream you want in cogsci (or at least have it narrowed down to one or two)

Now is the time to start mapping out your long-term course plan and identifying the prerequisites that you should prioritize now.

- a. Start by reviewing the program requirements and course offerings and use the Major Program Checklist on the cogsci advising page to keep track and make notes.

- b. Watch the videos and download the pdfs from the [Registration and Orientation page](#). Consult the “Orientation Materials” section to see the videos and pdfs.
- c. Each stream or area of focus will have a different set of courses for you to prioritize early on.
- d. I cannot stress enough the importance of planning ahead and looking at the 400+ level courses and seeing which prerequisite courses they have. This is especially important for those interested in either the **Computer Science or Neuroscience streams** as they have a lot of prereqs.
- e. I suggest you start by identifying eight to ten different 400+ level courses from the complementary courses that most interest you. Then make a list of all these courses **and their corresponding prerequisites**.
- f. Once you make this “wish list” of higher-level courses, the long-term planning becomes obvious and pretty straightforward!
- g. You will only need to take 15 credits, or five courses, at the 400+ level, but seeing as many courses at the higher-level are only offered every couple of years, it is best to have extra classes on your wish list.

***there is one special tip to help in planning out the prereqs** so that you can determine their order of priority. The university recently launched a new Course Catalogue for the 2025-2026 academic year, and although this will be a much-improved tool in the long-run, unfortunately at this time it does not allow for easy navigation of the prerequisites needed. So for ease of navigating prereqs, I suggest using the 2024-25 course calendar, this allows you to easily click on courses and learn more about the prereqs. On the cogsci website we have links to both versions of the course catalogue: [program requirements and course offerings](#)

4. CogSci Advising:

Remember that I am here to help 😊 Once you have reviewed the websites above please don't hesitate to contact me with questions. We should meet at least once a year to keep track of your planning and progress in the program.

Liana Hall DuMond (she/her), Program Advisor, Cognitive Science

[To book an advising appointment](#) (appointment times only show up 7 days in advance).

Liana.hall@mcgill.ca Please use your official McGill email and include your student ID number in all correspondence.

CogSci Orientation Tues, August 26 for all new Cognitive Science students. Details will be shared later in the summer on the [Registration and Orientation page](#).