Computer Science and Psychology

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Computer Science and Psychology is an interdepartmental major designed for students interested in integrating work in these two fields. Each area provides tools and theories that can be applied to problems in the other. Examples of this interaction include cognitive science, artificial intelligence, and biological perception.

The prerequisite for the major is PSYC 110, from which students who have scored 5 on the Advanced Placement test in Psychology are exempt. Beyond the prerequisite, the major requires fourteen term courses as well as a senior project.

Eight of the fourteen courses must be in computer science: CPSC 201, 202, 223, 323, 365, and three advanced computer science courses in artificial intelligence (e.g., CPSC 470, 471, 473, or 475). MATH 244 may substitute for CPSC 202. CPSC 480 and 490 may not be counted as one of these courses.

The remaining six courses must be in psychology, including PSYC 200, at least one from PSYC 210–299, at least two Psychology courses from the social science point of view, and at least one course in cognitive psychology or cognitive science listed in Psychology. PSYC 490, 491, 492, and 493 may not be counted as one of these courses.

A second course in cognitive psychology or cognitive science may substitute for one of the courses in artificial intelligence. An additional course in psychology and an examination arranged with the instructor of PSYC 200 may substitute for PSYC 200.

Senior requirement Students must take CPSC 490 or PSYC 492 or 493, and the project must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies in each department.

Approval of program The entire program of each student majoring in Computer Science and Psychology must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies in each department. No course in Computer Science taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the major; a maximum of one course in Psychology taken Credit/D/Fail may be counted toward the major.

Requirements of the major

Prerequisite PSYC 110

Number of courses 14 term courses beyond prereq (not incl senior project)

Specific courses required CPSC 201, 202, 223, 323, 365; PSYC 200

Distribution of courses 8 courses in Comp Sci, with 3 advanced AI courses; 6 courses in Psych, with at least 1 from PSYC 210–299, at least 2 from social science point of view, and at least 1 in cognitive psych or cognitive science listed in Psych

Substitution permitted For CPSC 202, MATH 244; for 1 course in AI, 1 addtl course in cognitive psych or cognitive science; for PSYC 200, 1 addtl course in Psych and exam arranged with instructor

Senior requirement CPSC 490 or PSYC 492 or 493 with project approved by DUS in each dept