USC Dornsife
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College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Department of Psychology

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Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science (CGSC)

46-48 units
Effective Fall 2025

Core Requirements (4 courses; 16 units)

__ PSYC 100Lg Introduction to Psychology
__ PSYC 274Lg Statistics
__ PSYC 301L Cognitive Processes
__ PHIL 246Lg Foundations of Cognitive Science

Flexible Core Requirements (5 courses; 20 units)

a) Tier 1: Choose two courses from:

__ BISC 230Lgx The Biology of the Brain
__ CSCI 103L Object Oriented Programming
__ HBIO 200Lg The Human Animal
__ LING 210g Introduction to Linguistics
__ LING 275Lg Language and Mind
__ LING 285Lg Human Language and Technology
__ LING 301 Introduction to Phonology and Morphology
__ LING 302 Introduction to Syntax
__ PHIL 220 Introduction to Logic
__ PHIL 222g Logic and Language
__ PHIL 240g Mind, Self and Consciousness
__ PHIL 254gp Science, Knowledge and Objectivity
__ PHIL 258g Probability and Rational Choice
__ PSYC 304L Sensation and Perception

b) Tier 2: Choose three courses from:

__ BISC 421 Neurobiology
__ CSCI 170 Discrete Methods in Computer Science
__ CSCI 270 Introduction to Algorithms and Theory of Computing
__ CSCI 360 Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Foundations
__ ECON 405 Neuroeconomics
__ HBIO 306 Biology of the Non-Human Primates
__ HBIO 308 Origins and Evolution of Human Behavior
__ LING 385Lg Human Language as Computation
__ LING 405 Child Language Acquisition
__ LING 406 Psycholinguistics
__ LING 407 Atypical Language
__ LING 412 Language and Law
__ LING 486 Natural Language Processing
__ LING 487 Speech Synthesis and Recognition
__ PHIL 336 Philosophy of Mind and Language
__ PHIL 363 Philosophy of Perception
__ PHIL 462 Philosophy of Mind
__ PHIL 463 Theories of Action
__ PHIL 465 Philosophy of Language
__ PHIL 470 Theory of Knowledge

Tier 2: (continued)

__ PSYC 305 Learning and Memory
__ PSYC 326 Behavioral Neuroscience
__ PSYC 336L Developmental Psychology
__ PSYC 339Lg Origins of the Mind
__ PSYC 422 Human Judgment and Decision Making
__ PSYC 423 User Experience
__ PSYC 424 Neuropsychology
__ PSYC 425 Functional Imaging of the Human Brain
__ PSYC 433 Children's Learning and Cognitive Development
__ PSYC 440 Foundations of Cognitive Neuroscience
__ PSYC 450 Neural Network Models of Social and Cognitive Processes
__ PSYC 454 Social Cognition

Electives: (3 courses; 10-12 units)

Choose three courses from:

__ BISC 230Lgx The Biology of the Brain
__ BISC 421 Neurobiology
__ BISC 424 Brain Architecture
__ CGSC 490x Directed Research
__ CGSC 498 Honors Thesis
__ CSCI 103L Object Oriented Programming (see note #6)
__ CSCI 104L Data Structures
__ CSCI 109 Introduction to Computer Science
__ CSCI 113x Programming Fundamentals for Computing
__ CSCI 114x Programming for Applications of Computing
__ CSCI 170 Discrete Methods in Computer Science
__ CSCI 270 Introduction to Algorithms and Theory of Computing
__ CSCI 360 Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Foundations
__ ECON 405 Neuroeconomics
__ HBIO 200Lg The Human Animal
__ HBIO 306 Biology of the Non-Human Primates
__ HBIO 308 Origins and Evolution of Human Behavior
__ HBIO 406 Theory and Method in Human Evolutionary Biology
__ LING 210g Introduction to Linguistics
__ LING 275Lg Language and Mind
__ LING 285Lg Human Language and Technology
__ LING 301 Introduction to Phonology and Morphology
__ LING 302 Introduction to Syntax
__ LING 307 Linguistic Theory and Communication Disorders
__ LING 405 Child Language Acquisition
__ LING 406 Psycholinguistics
__ LING 407 Atypical Language
__ LING 412 Language and Law

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Electives: (continued)

__ LING 415 Phonetics
__ LING 450 Forensic Speaker Identification
__ LING 486 Natural Language Processing
__ LING 487 Speech Synthesis and Recognition
__ PHIL 220 Introduction to Logic
__ PHIL 222g Logic and Language
__ PHIL 240g Mind, Self and Consciousness
__ PHIL 254gp Science, Knowledge and Objectivity
__ PHIL 258g Probability and Rational Choice
__ PHIL 336 Philosophy of Mind and Language
__ PHIL 363 Philosophy of Perception
__ PHIL 385 Science and Rationality
__ PHIL 422 British Empiricism
__ PHIL 423 The Critical Philosophy of Kant
__ PHIL 427 20th Century Anglo-American Philosophy
__ PHIL 428 Anglo-American Philosophy Since 1950
__ PHIL 450 The Limits of Logic
__ PHIL 452 Modal Logic
__ PHIL 462 Philosophy of Mind
__ PHIL 463 Theories of Action
__ PHIL 465 Philosophy of Language
__ PHIL 470 Theory of Knowledge
__ PHIL 486 Methodologies of the Sciences
__ PSYC 215Lg Music, Mind and the Brain
__ PSYC 304L Sensation and Perception
__ PSYC 305 Learning and Memory
__ PSYC 314L Experimental Research Methods
__ PSYC 320 Principles of Psychobiology
__ PSYC 326 Behavioral Neuroscience
__ PSYC 336L Developmental Psychology
__ PSYC 339Lg Origins of the Mind
__ PSYC 360 Psychological Disorders
__ PSYC 421L Data Analysis for Psychological Research
__ PSYC 422 Human Judgment and Decision Making
__ PSYC 423 User Experience
__ PSYC 424 Neuropsychology
__ PSYC 425 Functional Imaging of the Human Brain
__ PSYC 428 Advanced Psychobiology Seminar
__ PSYC 433 Children's Learning and Cognitive Development
__ PSYC 434 Intelligence, Problem Solving and Creativity
__ PSYC 436 Developmental Neuroscience of Human Behavior
__ PSYC 438 Behavioral Genetics
__ PSYC 440 Foundations of Cognitive Neuroscience
__ PSYC 450 Neural Network Models of Social and Cognitive Processes
__ PSYC 452 Social Neuroscience
__ PSYC 454 Social Cognition
__ TAC 115 Programming in Python
__ TAC 116 Accelerated Programming in Python
__ TAC 310 Design for User Experience

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Please Note:

1. All courses used to count towards the major must be taken for a letter grade.

2. Acceptable substitutions for PSYC 100Lg include, but are not limited to: AP Psychology score of 4 or 5 and Higher Level IB Psychology score of 5, 6, or 7. However, these substitutions do not earn General Education (GE) credit for students who started college in Fall 2015 or later. Please see Department of Psychology Academic Advisors for PSYC 100g prerequisite waivers.

3. On the Transfer Credit Report in OASIS, "TR-PSYC" for introduction to psychology courses taken at other institutions also will satisfy the Introduction to Psychology prerequisite for our upper level PSYC courses but will not earn General Education (GE) credit for students who started college in Fall 2015 or later. No prerequisite waiver is necessary.

4. A course that is listed in multiple areas (Flexible Core Tiers and/or Elective) can only satisfy one area. It will not "double" or "triple" count."

5. Students must choose a minimum of 16 upper division units (300-499 range) from the Flexible Core and Electives lists.

6. Students that are interested in focusing on aspects of Cognitive Science that draw from Computer Science should consider that units from these courses are outside of Dornsife College and will not be counted towards the required Dornsife College units.

7. ITP 115 is not intended to be taken if CSCI 103L is taken.

8. The USC Catalogue states 10-12 units are required for the CGSC Elective section.

9. Students may satisfy up to four upper division (300-499 range) major requirements through approved Dornsife Overseas Studies programs.

10. Some courses may have additional prerequisites or restrictions. Please check the USC Schedule of Classes and the USC Catalogue.

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