Concurrent Bachelor's/Master's Degree in Psychology and Neuroscience with Specialization in Cognitive Psychology

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this degree program is to provide training that will prepare students either for continuing doctoral study in cognitive psychology or for technical careers involving cognitive psychology in government and industry. Students will complete the requirements for an undergraduate major in Psychology and an interdisciplinary undergraduate Certificate in Cognitive Science as well as the requirements for a Master’s degree in the cognitive psychology graduate training program. Because of the demanding nature of this program, only highly qualified students will be admitted to this program. The maximum number of students admitted to the program in a given year is six, limited by the course capacity available in the required courses.

The program is structured so that students will start their graduate course work in the Fall of their fourth year. Specifically, both the Graduate Statistics and Graduate Proseminar series of courses must be taken in the fourth year of study. The master’s thesis is then completed during the fifth year.

Questions about this program should be directed to the Director of the Cognitive Psychology Ph.D. Program, currently Tim Curran, tim.curran@colorado.edu.

1. Admission to the Program

Students are required to apply at the end of their fourth semester of study to the concurrent program. The application form is equivalent to that used for admission to the standard graduate program (except that the graduate record examination is not required). The deadline for application is the graduation date for that semester. The applications will be reviewed by the faculty in the cognitive psychology program in the Psychology and Neuroscience Department, which will serve as the admissions committee. This is the same admission procedure used for the standard graduate program. The students will be notified of their admission before the start of their fifth semester of study.

In order to apply to the program the following is required:

1. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.2 for all course work and 3.5 for courses in Psychology will be required for admission to the concurrent program.
2. All MAPS deficiencies must be removed and the student must have completed at least 30 hours of the Arts and Sciences core course requirements before admission to the concurrent program
3. Three letters of recommendation from University of Colorado faculty will be required. At least one of the letters must be from a faculty member in the Department of
Psychology and Neuroscience. Transfer students will be allowed to submit letters from faculty members at their original institution. The letters should indicate that the student has sufficient ability and motivation to do intensive advanced work in psychology.

4. The student must have written agreement by a faculty member from the cognitive psychology program in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience to serve as the student's mentor. This mentor will normally be the student's advisor for both the undergraduate honors and master's theses.

Upon admission to this program, the students will be required to enter the Cognitive Science Certificate program.

2. **Continuation in Program**

To continue in the program, the students must maintain an overall grade point average of 3.2 and a grade point average of 3.5 for courses in the Psychology and Neuroscience Department. All courses for the Cognitive Science Certificate must be completed with grades of C- or better, and all graduate courses must be completed with grades of B- or better. Students must complete Psychology 5741/5751 and at least 120 credit hours before the start of their fifth year of study.

3. **Curriculum**

(I.) **Undergraduate Courses Required**

(including those for the Cognitive Science Certificate)

(A.) All Cognitive Science Certificate Requirements:
http://www.colorado.edu/ics/undergraduate-program

(B.) All other courses required for a Psychology Major.
http://psych.colorado.edu/~advising/docs/Psyc-Major-Requirements-Orange-Sheet.pdf

(C.) Total minimum 36 hours in the four co-operating cognitive science departments (i.e., Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychology and Neuroscience)

(II.) **Graduate Courses Required**

For updated graduate requirements, see:
http://www.colorado.edu/cognitive-psychology/node/134

(A.) Graduate Statistics, PSYC 5741-4, PSYC 5751-4
(Required before the start of Year 5; Recommended for Year 4)

(B.) At least four of the six following 2-credit Graduate Proseminars:
(Starting in Year 4)
1. Research Methods (PSYC 5685);
2. Perception and Attention (PSYC 5665);
3. Memory (PSYCH 5695);
4. Language (PSYC 5815);
5. Executive Function (PSYC 5825);
6. Thinking (PSYC 5835)

(C.) A Master’s Thesis approved by a Psychology and Neuroscience Department committee of 3 faculty members, and 6 hours of master’s thesis credits, PSYC 6951-6, following the Master’s Degree guideline in the Cognitive Psychology Ph.D. Program (http://www.colorado.edu/cognitive-psychology/node/134).

The Master’s Thesis project cannot be identical to the project used for completion of a Senior Honor’s thesis, but some overlap is acceptable (e.g., the Honors Thesis project could be the first experiment in a two-experiment Master’s Thesis).

(D.) The MA degree requires a minimum of 30 credit hours, including at least 24 hours at the 5000-level or above, and no more than 6 hours at the 3000- or 4000-level. Twenty-two MA credits would come from the required Statistics courses (8 credits), Proseminars (8 credits), and MA Thesis hours (6 credits). A maximum of 6 credit hours can overlap between the BA and MA degrees. The two final MA credits could come from taking any courses at the 5000-level or above. This could be an additional PSYC Graduate Proseminar, any other graduate course in the four co-operating cognitive science departments (i.e., Computer Science, Linguistics, Philosophy, Psychology and Neuroscience), Issues and Methods in Cognitive Science (3 credits), or Topics in Cognitive Science (1 credit x 2 semesters).

(E.) Oral thesis presentation at the Psychology and Neuroscience Department's Ekstrand Memorial Mini-Convention held late in the spring semester (typically the last Monday of Spring Semester) of the fifth year.

(III.) Other Requirements

(A.) Minimum 15 hours in upper division courses in the four co-operating cognitive science departments within the College of Arts and Sciences, with at least 9 hours outside the Psychology and Neuroscience Department;

(B.) All courses for certificate with grades of C- or better; all graduate courses with grades of B-or better

(C.) An overall grade-point average of 3.2 or better

(D.) Transfer students must complete PSYC 3005-3/PHIL 3310-3/LING 3005-3/CSCI 3702-3 (from the Cognitive Science certificate requirements) and at least 9 other upper division hours on the Boulder Campus
(E.) Students must be full-time continuously registered students throughout the period of the degree.

(F.) The maximum time limit for the concurrent degree is three years after the sophomore year. Students accepted to the program who do not complete the graduate requirements by the end of this period will be awarded a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a certificate in cognitive science, given that they have completed all of the necessary requirements.

(G) The minimum total number of credit hours required for the concurrent degree is 144 (120 BA + 30 MA – 6 overlapping BA/MA credits).

(H.) Graduate School guidelines for the concurrent degree program must be followed: http://www.colorado.edu/graduateschool/academics/guidelines-concurrent-degree-program