



September 02, 2014

Abigail Panter, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education  
Nick Siedentop, Curriculum Director for Undergraduate Curricula  
Office of Undergraduate Education, CB#6504  
University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill

### **Proposed Changes to Undergraduate Minor in Cognitive Science**

Dear Dr. Panter and Members of the Administrative Boards:

We are writing with proposed changes to the undergraduate minor in Cognitive Science. Professor Peter C. Gordon, who is Director of the Minor, recently reviewed aspects of the minor. In recent years enrollment in the minor has been relatively steady with an average graduation rate of about 13 students per year. The following numbers of student have graduated with a minor in cognitive science in recent years: 2008 (13); 2009 (8); 2010 (9); 2011 (13); 2012 (21); 2013 (4). These numbers indicate that the degree program is a small one but that it attracts student interest. In order to better serve students' interests, the following changes are requested to the Cognitive Science minor:

1. Change the course number of the required course, *Introduction to Cognitive Science* from PSYC 431 to PSYC 330. Lowering the number to the 300-range is appropriate given that the course serves as an introduction to the field. Moreover, cognitive science minors have had difficulty getting seats in the course in recent years because many psychology majors take the course to fulfill upper-level requirements. Placing the course in the 300 range would eliminate the incentive for psychology majors who are not interested in cognitive science to take the course in order to fulfill an upper level requirement.
2. In addition to the required course *Introduction to Cognitive Science*, students must fulfill four elective requirements that must cover at least two of the five disciplinary areas—behavioral, biological, computational, linguistic, and philosophical. Currently there is no requirement regarding the level of these courses. We propose that at least two of these four elective courses must be upper level (i.e., numbered above 400) in order to ensure that students receive in-depth study of issues in cognitive science.
3. We request that the following courses be added to the list of courses that fulfill minor elective requirements:
  - a. Behavioral: ANTH 143; PSYC 434, 469
  - b. Biological (none)

- c. Computational: COMP 101, 116, 401; INLS 382, 500, 523, 541, 613; STOR 215, 435, 565
  - d. Linguistic: ANTH 520 (cross-listed with LING 520); LING 201, 301, 540
  - e. Philosophical: ANTH 146, 435 (cross-listed with CMPL 435 and FOLK 435); PHIL 155, 164, 230, 455 (cross-listed with LING 455)
4. We request that the following courses be dropped from the list of courses that fulfill minor requirements either because they are no longer regularly offered or else course content is no longer relevant for the study of cognitive science at UNC: BIOL 453; COMP 485, LING 383, LING 400; MATH 383, MATH 547; PHIL 345, PHIL 453; PSYC 400; SLAV 409, STOR 105, STOR 582.

A page is attached that has suggested text for the Undergraduate Bulletin. We would be glad to respond to any questions or concerns that you might have regarding these requested changes.

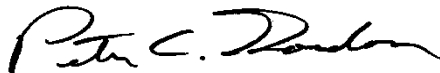
Sincerely,



Donald T. Lysle, Ph.D.  
Kenan Distinguished Professor



Beth Kurtz-Costes, Ph.D.  
Director of Undergraduate Studies in Psychology



Peter Gordon, Ph.D.  
Director, Cognitive Science Minor

*Description of Cognitive Science minor for the Undergraduate Bulletin:*

**Minoring in Cognitive Science**

The cognitive science minor consists of five disciplinary areas: behavioral, biological, computational, linguistic, and philosophical. Each course, except the overview, falls into one or more disciplinary areas. Please refer to the appropriate departments for course descriptions.

Students must earn a grade of C or better in at least four of the five courses. Courses used to satisfy psychology core requirements cannot also satisfy requirements in the cognitive science minor. The minor is open to all, including psychology majors, who are still limited to no more than 45 credit hours in the department. Students and their advisors should take careful note of the specified prerequisites for advanced offerings in this listing. The specified courses (or their equivalent from other institutions) provide a necessary background for entry into these advanced courses. Students interested in pursuing the minor should contact the program director for further information.

- PSYC 330 (prerequisite PSYC 101 and 210)
- Four other courses distributed over at least two disciplinary areas, at least two of which must be numbered 400 or above, as follows:
  - Behavioral: ANTH 143; BIOL 278 , 455; INLS 512; PSYC 222, 225, 230, 425, 430, 432, 433, 434, 461, 469
  - Biological: BIOL 278, 455, 469; PSYC 225
  - Computational: COMP 101, 116, 401, 455; INLS 382, 500, 509, 512, 523, 541, 582, 613; MATH 566; PSYC 433; STOR 215, 305, 435, 565,
  - Linguistic: ANTH 520; INLS 512; LING 200, 201, 202, 401, 520, 523, 540, 547; PHIL 145, 445; PSYC 432
  - Philosophical: ANTH 146, 435; PHIL 145, 155, 164, 230, 335, 340, 440, 445, 455