INDIVIDUALIZED MAJOR IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE

The Individualized Major in Cognitive Science is administered through the Rutgers Center for Cognitive Science (RuCCS). It offers an opportunity for exceptional, creative, self-motivated students to explore innovative and multi-disciplinary approaches to the study of the foundational and computational workings of the mind. Satisfactory completion of the Individualized Major leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The major must consist of at least 36 credits, distributed as follows:

1. One of the following courses: 185:201 (Cognitive Science: A Multi-disciplinary Intro) and/or 185:301 (Cognition and Decision Making) and/or 185:310 (The Concept of Concepts in Cognitive Science) and/or 185:320 (Research in Cognitive Science) and/or 185:410 (Language and Cognition) and/or 185:411 (Advanced Topics in Cognitive Science).

2. At least one formal/analytic requirement. For courses that automatically satisfy the requirement, click here.

3. A minimum of 3 credits of cognitive science research directed by the student’s primary faculty advisor, 185:495 Research in Cognitive Science. Students may also fulfill this requirement via Departmental Honors or College Honors courses.

4. Two thirds of the total credits must be from courses offered by the School of Arts and Sciences.

5. Three fourths of the total credits must be at the 300-level or above.

Students should select from one of four possible tracks: Cognitive Neuroscience, Generalist, Language, and Vision. Each track has course recommendations for fulfilling the requirements of the Individualized Major.

Applying for the Individualized Major in Cognitive Science:

1. Select from one of the 4 tracks (listed above).

2. Find a primary faculty advisor, who will help you develop your application and oversee your required research course in your Junior or Senior year. For a list of faculty affiliated with the Center click here.

3. Submit a written application no later than the first term of your junior year. (Part-time and transfer students may extend this deadline to completion of 75 credits.)

The application can be downloaded at the following address:

Your application must include:

1. 1-page Statement of Purpose and Learning Goals describing your academic objectives and clearly explaining why they cannot be accomplished within the current structure of majors, minors, and electives open to SAS students.

2. Proposed listing of courses you intend to complete and the semester when you intend to take the courses. Include short lists of “elective courses” within the major from which you will choose a set number. For example, you can list three specific courses in Psychology and indicate that you will take a minimum of one course from that list for 3 credits.
3. **Signature of your primary faculty advisor** who will direct your research course.

4. The approval and signatures of the **Undergraduate Director** (2nd signature) and **Director of the Center** (3rd signature).

5. The approval and signature of the **SAS Dean for Educational Initiatives and the Core Curriculum** (Susan Lawrence) or the **Vice Dean for Undergraduate Education** (Michael Beals). Their offices are located at 35 College Avenue.

To contact the Undergraduate Director, Dr. Mary Rigdon, email [undergrad@ruccs.rutgers.edu](mailto:undergrad@ruccs.rutgers.edu)

**Advising Centers:**

**Busch Campus**  
Busch Campus Center, Rm. 172  
732-445-0163

**College Avenue Campus**  
Milledoler Hall, Rm. 103  
732-932-7731

**Douglass Campus**  
College Hall, Rm. 104  
732-932-9729

**Livingston Campus**  
Lucy Stone Hall, Rm. A-216  
732-445-2050