

# **IPAC Program Description**

## **Name of Program**

Cognitive Science Program

## **Contributor**

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## **Brief Description of the Program**

Cognitive science is an interdisciplinary study of the mind that features the computational / representational assumption, the idea that that best way to study the mind is in terms of the description and manipulation of representations - mental representations, neural representations, embodied representations, and computational representations. The Cognitive Science Program at Oswego is a degree granting academic program. It currently has approximately 30 majors and 25 minors.

## **Interdisciplinary Nature of the Program**

Traditionally cognitive science is considered to draw six contributing disciplines: COMPUTER SCIENCE (artificial intelligence), PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGY (neuroscience and evolution), LINGUISTICS, PHILOSOPHY, and ANTHROPOLOGY. Increasingly, other fields are coming into the fold, including the arts (music, literature, painting). The theme that draws these disparate fields together within the study of the mind is knowledge representation.

## **Relationship to Interdisciplinarity at Oswego**

The Cognitive Science program shares courses, students, and research aims with the Linguistics program at Oswego. It also has strong ties with the Human Computer Interaction (HCI) program at Oswego. A significant proportion of Cognitive Science graduates have continued their education in HCI at Oswego. In fact, knowledge associated with the field of cognitive science is applicable to nearly any field, and can enrich the study of, for example, Information Science and Cinema Studies.

## **IPAC Support**

The Cognitive Science Program Board will meet in the IPAC Conference Room four times each year.

Students and faculty associated with the Cognitive Science program will use the Conference Room when it is available for various purposes ranging from research sessions to watching CogSci-related videos on the display and reading CogSci books from the DKL collection.

The secretary will schedule the IPAC Conference Room for the CogSci program when it is needed.

The secretary will occasionally generate PDF files to be used in Cog labelled courses.

The secretary will, very occasionally, assist with special tasks that the Cognitive Science program will engage in. Examples would be a search to fill a shared position between Cognitive Science and another academic entity on campus or the cyclical self-study.

## **Relevant Dates**

The foreseeable future.