

Computer Science and Behavioral Neuroscience, BS (Boston)

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Behavioral Neuroscience underscores how research in neuroscience has become a computational field of study. The combined major is designed for students who are interested in applying mathematical and computational methodologies toward understanding human behavior, artificial intelligence, and the human-machine interface. Courses across multiple science disciplines—including biology, chemistry, and computer science—lay a strong foundation necessary to explore brain mechanisms and how they give rise to behavioral functions and pathological states using computational approaches. Students will have an opportunity to develop skills in software development as they apply algorithms and data structures to brain research and neurotechnology.

Program Requirements

Complete all courses listed below unless otherwise indicated. Also complete any corequisite labs, recitations, clinicals, or tools courses where specified and complete any additional courses needed beyond specific college and major requirements to satisfy graduation credit requirements.

Universitywide Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the Universitywide Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/university-wide-requirements/>).

NUpath Requirements

All undergraduate students are required to complete the NUpath Requirements (<https://catalog.northeastern.edu/undergraduate/university-academics/nupath/>).

Computer Science Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Overview		
CS 1200	First Year Seminar ¹	1
CS 1210	Professional Development for Khoury Co-op ²	1
Computer Science Foundations		
All students can take a self-assessment to attempt to place out of CS 2000 and CS 2001. Students who place out of CS 2000 and CS 2001 will instead substitute 4-5 semester hours of CS, CY, or DS coursework at the 3000 level or higher not otherwise required in the degree.		
CS 1800 and CS 1802	Discrete Structures and Seminar for CS 1800	5
CS 2000 and CS 2001	Introduction to Program Design and Implementation and Lab for CS 2000	5
CS 2100 and CS 2101	Program Design and Implementation 1 and Lab for CS 2100	5
Computer Science Required Courses		
CS 3000	Algorithms and Data	4
CS 3100 and CS 3101	Program Design and Implementation 2 and Lab for CS 3100	5
CS 3200	Introduction to Databases	4
CS 4100	Artificial Intelligence	4
CS 4530 or CS 4535	Fundamentals of Software Engineering Professional Practicum Capstone	4
Statistics Foundation		
Complete one of the following. Students who receive transfer credit for the Advanced Placement Statistics exam may complete the 1 semester hour PSYC 2315 course (requires department permission):		4-5
ENVR 2500 and ENVR 2501	Biostatistics and Lab for ENVR 2500	
PSYC 2320	Statistics in Psychological Research	

¹ Students entering through the behavioral neuroscience program may take Behavioral Neuroscience at Northeastern (BNSC 1000).

² Students entering through the behavioral neuroscience program may take Professional Development for Co-op (EESC 2000).

Writing Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
College Writing		
ENGW 1111	First-Year Writing	4
or ENGW 1102	First-Year Writing for Multilingual Writers	
Advanced Writing in the Disciplines		
Complete one of the following:		4
ENGW 3302	Advanced Writing in the Technical Professions	
ENGW 3307	Advanced Writing in the Sciences	
ENGW 3315	Interdisciplinary Advanced Writing in the Disciplines	

Behavioral Neuroscience Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
COS Foundations		
BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108	Foundations of Biology and Lab for BIOL 1107	5
BIOL 2299	Inquiries in Biological Sciences	4
BIOL 2301 and BIOL 2302	Genetics and Molecular Biology and Lab for BIOL 2301	5
CHEM 1161 and CHEM 1162 and CHEM 1163	General Chemistry for Science Majors and Lab for CHEM 1161 and Recitation for CHEM 1161	5
CHEM 2311 and CHEM 2312	Organic Chemistry 1 and Lab for CHEM 2311	5
PSYC 1101	Foundations of Psychology	4
Mathematics Foundation		
MATH 1341 or MATH 1251	Calculus 1 for Science and Engineering Calculus and Differential Equations for Biology 1	4
Behavioral Neuroscience Foundations		
BIOL 3405 or BIOL 5587	Neurobiology Comparative Neurobiology	4
PT 5410 and PT 5411 or PSYC 3200	Functional Human Neuroanatomy and Lab for PT 5410 Clinical Neuroanatomy	4-5
Psychology Elective		
Complete one of the following:		4
PSYC 3404	Developmental Psychology	
PSYC 3406	Clinical Psychology and Mental Health	
PSYC 3450	Learning and Motivation	
PSYC 3451	Learning Principles and Behavior Analysis	
PSYC 3452	Sensation and Perception	
PSYC 3464	Psychology of Language	
PSYC 3466	Cognition	
Behavioral Neuroscience Core Courses		
Complete two of the following:		8
BIOL 3415	Current Topics in Behavioral Neuroscience	
BIOL 3601	Neural Systems and Behavior	
BIOL 3605	Developmental Neurobiology	
BIOL 4705	Neurobiology of Cognitive Decline	
BIOL 4709	Neurobiology of Learning and Memory	
BIOL 5595	Cell and Molecular Neuroscience	
BIOL 5601	Multidisciplinary Approaches in Motor Control	
PSYC 3506	Neuropsychology of Fear	
PSYC 3508	Behavioral Endocrinology	
PSYC 3510	Brain, Behavior, and Immunity	

PSYC 4510	Psychopharmacology
PSYC 4512	Neuropsychology
PSYC 4514	Clinical Neuroscience
PSYC 4570	Behavioral Genetics

Integrative Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Integrative Courses		
PSYC 4540	Quantitative Topics in Psychology and Behavioral Neuroscience	4
or BINF 6200	Bioinformatics Programming	
CS 2484	Principles of Human-Computer Interaction	4
or CS 4120	Natural Language Processing	
or CS 4180	Reinforcement Learning	
Upper-Division Elective		
Complete 4 semester hours from the following list, not taken to fulfill previous requirements:		4
BINF 6310	Introduction to Bioinformatics	
BIOL 3400 or higher		
BNSC 4991 or higher		
CS 2500 or higher, except CS 5010		
CY 2000 or higher, except CY 4930		
DS 2500 or higher, except DS 4900		
PSYC 3200 or higher		

Supporting Courses

Code	Title	Hours
Computing and Social Issues		
Complete one of the following:		4
AFCS 2600	Issues in Race, Science, and Technology	
CY 4170	The Law, Ethics, and Policy of Data and Digital Technologies	
CY 5240	Cyberlaw: Privacy, Ethics, and Digital Rights	
DS 1300	Knowledge in a Digital World	
or PHIL 1300	Knowledge in a Digital World	
HIST 2220	History of Technology	
INSH 2102	Bostonography: The City through Data, Texts, Maps, and Networks	
JRNL 3700	Data Storytelling	
PHIL 1145	Technology and Human Values	
SOCL 1280	The Twenty-First-Century Workplace	
SOCL 2485	Environment, Technology, and Society	
SOCL 4528	Technology and Society	

Required General Electives

Code	Title	Hours
Complete 16 semester hours of general electives.		16

Khoury College GPA Requirement

Minimum cumulative 2.000 GPA required in all CS, CY, DS, and IS courses

Computer Science and Behavioral Neuroscience Major Credit Requirement

102 SH required in the major

NUpath Requirements Satisfied

- Advanced Writing in the Disciplines
- Analyzing and Using Data
- Conducting Formal and Quantitative Reasoning
- Demonstrating Thought and Action in a Capstone
- Engaging with the Natural and Designed World

Program Requirement

Plan of Study

Sample Plans of Study

FOUR YEARS, TWO CO-OPS IN SPRING/SUMMER FIRST HALF

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108		5 BIOL 2299		4 PSYC 1101		4 Vacation	
CS 1200		1 CHEM 1161 and CHEM 1162 and CHEM 1163		5 CS 3100 and CS 3101		5	
CS 1800 and CS 1802		5 MATH 1341		4			
CS 2000 and CS 2001		5 CS 2100 and CS 2101		5			
ENGW 1111		4					
	20		18		9		0

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
BIOL 2301 and BIOL 2302		5 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 PSYC Elective	4
BIOL 3405 or 5587		4				General Elective	4
CS 1210		1					
CS 3000 and CS 3001		4					
CS 3200		4					
		18		0		0	8

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
CHEM 2311 and CHEM 2312		5 Co-op		0 Co-op		0 General elective	4
PSYC 3200 or PT 5410 <i>and</i> PT 5411		4 ENGW 3302, 3307, or 3315		4		General elective	4
Statistics course		4					
General elective		4					
		17		4		0	8

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
CS 2484, 4120, or 4180		4 BINF 6308 or PSYC 4540	4
CS 4530 or 4535		4 CS 4100	4
BNS core 1		4 Computing and social issues	4
BNS core 2		4 Upper division elective	4
	16		16

Total Hours: 134

FOUR YEARS, TWO CO-OPS IN SUMMER SECOND HALF/FALL**Year 1**

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108		5 BIOL 2299		4 PSYC 1101		4 Vacation	
CS 1200		1 CHEM 1161 and CHEM 1162 and CHEM 1163		5 CS 3100 and CS 3101		5	
CS 1800 and CS 1802		5 MATH 1341		4			
CS 2000 and CS 2001		5 CS 2100 and CS 2101		5			
ENGW 1111		4					
	20		18		9		0

Year 2

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
BIOL 2301 and BIOL 2302		5 CHEM 2311 and CHEM 2312		5 PSYC elective		4 Co-op	0
BIOL 3405 or 5587		4 CS 1210		1 General elective		4	
CS 3000 and CS 3001		4 PSYC 3200 or PT 5410 <i>and</i> PT 5411		4			
CS 3200		4 Statistics course		4			
		General elective		4			
	17		18		8		0

Year 3

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours	Summer 1	Hours	Summer 2	Hours
Co-op		0 CS 4530		4 Upper-division elective		4 Co-op	0
		Computing and Social Issues		4 General elective		4 ENGW 3302, 3307, or 3315	4
		BNS core 1		4			
		BNS core 2		4			
	0		16		8		4

Year 4

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Co-op		0 BINF 6308 or PSYC 4540	4
		CS 2484, 4120, or 4180	4
		CS 4100	4
		General elective	4
	0		16

Total Hours: 134