

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE FIELD OF COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

The PhD in Cognitive Neuroscience program trains students to become independent scientists who perform research in academic and research institutions. Unlike clinical neuropsychology programs, this doctoral program does not provide any training in diagnosing or treating brain or neurological disorders.

Instead, the cognitive neuroscience curriculum offers an intense, focused research experience in the areas of perception, attention and memory, with an emphasis on the neural bases of these capacities. Students utilize diverse research methods throughout their studies, including patient-based testing, neuro-imaging, animal modeling, psychophysical scaling and computational modeling. The program also emphasizes faculty-student collaboration through joint research projects.

Students benefit from GW's location in Washington, D.C., where it is in close proximity to the National Institutes of Health and other major research institutions. On campus, GW's School of Medicine and Health Sciences and its associated teaching hospital are also great resources for cognitive neuroscience research, with their intensive Neuroscience Program and world-class Departments of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Neuroradiology. This is a STEM-designated degree program.

Visit the program website (<https://psychology.columbian.gwu.edu/cognitive-neuroscience/>) for additional information.

ADMISSIONS

Admission Fall: December 1 deadlines:

Standardized test scores: GRE general test (institutional code 5246). Waived for applicants who hold a JD, MD, or PhD.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or the PTE Academic is required of all applicants except those who hold a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree from a college or university in the United States or from an institution located in a country in which English is the official language, provided English was the language of instruction.

Minimum scores for the program are:

- Academic IELTS: an overall band score of 7.0 with no individual score below 6.0; or
- TOEFL: 600 on paper-based or 100 on Internet-based; or
- PTE Academic: 68;

Prerequisite requirement: A bachelor's degree with a major in psychology. Students whose academic preparation is in other disciplines will be expected to have completed prerequisite undergraduate courses to prepare for graduate study in psychology before admission.

Recommendations: (3) recommendations required:

Prior academic records: Transcripts are required from all colleges and universities attended, whether or not credit was earned, the program was completed, or the credit appears as transfer credit on another transcript. Unofficial transcripts from all colleges and universities attended must be uploaded to your online application. Official transcripts are required only of applicants who are offered admission. If transcripts are in a language other than English, English language translations must be provided. The English translation alone should be uploaded into your application.

Statement of purpose: In an essay of 250 – 500 words, state your purpose in undertaking graduate study in your chosen field. Include your academic objectives, research interests, research experience and career plans. Also discuss your related qualifications, including collegiate, professional, and community activities, and any other substantial accomplishments not already mentioned on the application. If you are applying for an assistantship or fellowship, you should also describe any teaching experience you have had.

Interview: An interview is required.

International applicants only: Please review International Applicant Information (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements>) (<https://graduate.admissions.gwu.edu/international-student-application-requirements/>) carefully for details on required documents and English language requirements.

For more information on the admission process, please visit the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences Frequently Asked Questions (<http://columbian.gwu.edu/graduate/admissions/faqs/>) page.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Columbian College of Arts and Sciences - Graduate Admissions Office
The George Washington University
801 22nd Street NW, Phillips Hall 215
Washington DC 20052

Contact for questions:

askccas@gwu.edu ~ 202-994-6210 (phone) ~ 202-994-6213 (fax)

8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Monday through Friday

REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Graduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

The requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Program (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#doctoralstext>).

72 credits, including 33 credits in required courses, 21 to 27 credits in elective courses, 12 to 24 credits in dissertation, and successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

Code	Title	Credits
Required core		
PSYC 8250	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience (Foundations)	
PSYC 8250	Seminar in Cognitive Neuroscience (Proseminar)	
PSYC 8203	Experimental Foundations of Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition	
PSYC 8204	Experimental Foundations of Psychology: Biological Basis of Behavior	
PSYC 8289	Seminar: Current Topics in Experimental Psychology	
Methods/statistics		
DNSC 6274	Statistical Modeling and Analysis	
DNSC 6275	Advanced Statistical Modeling and Analysis	
DNSC 6276	Exploratory and Multivariate Data Analysis	
PSYC 8202	Psychological Research Methods and Procedures	
Breadth		
6 credits in coursework taken outside of the cognitive neuroscience field.		
Electives		
21 to 27 credits in elective courses, which may include the courses listed below and/or other relevant courses.		
PSYC 8223	Seminar: Human Memory	
PSYC 8251	Behavioral Neuroscience	

PSYC 8268	Seminar: Neuropsychology
PSYC 8295	Independent Research
Dissertation	
PSYC 8998	Advanced Reading and Research (taken for 6 to 12 credits)
PSYC 8999	Dissertation Research (taken for 6 to 12 credits)
Comprehensive examination	
Students must successfully complete a comprehensive examination.	