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Curriculum
The PhD program in cognition and neuroscience offers advanced study and research training for students seeking to become leading scientists and scholars in the field. Research in cognition and neuroscience encompasses all aspects of cognition, including studies of perception, memory, reasoning, decision-making, neuroplasticity and neuro-engineering.

The cognition and neuroscience PhD program offers a distinctive blend of research initiatives and doctoral study in the neural processes underlying sensation, perception, memory, learning, language and executive function throughout the lifespan. Students may focus on perception and memory for complex information patterns such as faces, speech, language, music, and text, or reasoning and decision-making processes in conditions such as brain damage and addiction. Another area of strength is cellular and molecular neuroplasticity — in typical learning and memory as well as in chronic pain and other atypical conditions. The program also has strengths in artificial neural networks and neuro-engineering.

The PhD program in cognition and neuroscience offers exceptional research facilities, including state-of-the art laboratories for investigating neuroanatomical, neurophysiological, neurochemical, and neuropsychological processes, as well as for conducting advanced mathematical analyses and modeling. In addition, the school’s centers, such as the Center for BrainHealth and the Center for Vital Longevity, house outstanding research facilities for the study of cognitive neuroscience, including cutting-edge brain imaging technologies for identifying the neural signatures of learning, aging, and disease. Collaborative arrangements with the UT Southwestern Medical Center expand student research opportunities through additional access to clinical populations and neuroimaging facilities.

PhD students selected for the program are fully funded through either a teaching assistantship (TA) or a research assistantship (RA). The minimum funding amount is $2,000 per month, guaranteed for nine months. Additionally, all PhD students receive a tuition waiver from the university.

Career Options
Graduates of the program seek positions such as: neuroscientist in academic, private practice, industry or medical settings; researcher or professor.

Degree Program
The PhD program in cognition and neuroscience is divided into two tracks: cognitive neuroscience and systems neuroscience. Coursework and some degree requirements differ between the two tracks, but all students are required to complete a minimum of 75 semester credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. For complete admission and degree requirements, view the Graduate Catalog at catalog.utdallas.edu.
Students, faculty and staff members of the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences are committed to understanding the intersection of mind, brain and behavior. Their work is aimed at enhancing the health, education and quality of life of children and families, and creating and implementing technology that repairs and strengthens human abilities.

The school provides innovative training and research, offering an array of programs to develop creative thinkers. BBS offers training from through the PhD level, preparing students to become researchers, clinicians, social service professionals and corporate leaders.

**Centers**

Many of the school’s activities are shaped significantly by faculty and student involvement in five centers listed below.

**Callier Center for Communication Disorders:** The center is a national leader in providing care for children and adults with a wide variety of speech, language and hearing disorders. Faculty members support the center’s clinical services by engaging in research to provide the latest information on causes, treatments and prevention of communication disorders.

**Center for BrainHealth:** This center has a unique mission: to understand the brain’s ability to restore or protect healthy function, to protect the brain from unnecessary mental decline and to heal the brain through treatments that regenerate function. To accomplish its mission, the Center for BrainHealth unites cutting-edge technologies in brain science with the intellectual talent of world-class scientists and clinicians, thereby advancing cognitive treatments and brain repair across diseases.

**Center for Children and Families:** The center’s research, programs and community outreach activities are organized around parenting healthy families, strengthening interpersonal relationships and enhancing thinking and learning.

**Center for Vital Longevity:** This research center is focused on understanding and expanding the capacity of the aging mind. Center researchers use cutting-edge brain imaging technologies and advances in cognitive science to understand how the brain changes from young to old adulthood, the consequences of neural aging for everyday function and what interventions show promise for slowing cognitive aging.

**Texas Biomedical Device Center:** The center consists of a world-class team of scientists, engineers, medical doctors, regulatory specialists and clinicians committed to the development of affordable and innovative therapies and technologies to improve the quality of life for individuals suffering from neurological disorders.

**Research**

Focused on the intersection of mind, brain and behavior, the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences is committed to translating the latest research into treatment and intervention that add depth to education and provide valuable community service.

In keeping with the University’s strategic initiative to “become one of the nation’s best public research universities," BBS researchers are awarded grants from some of the most prestigious science organizations, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

**BBS Graduate Programs**

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