In consideration of the findings of the 2005 Cognitive Science Self Study, and in light of feedback accrued while teaching the new Cognitive Science Capstone Seminar, the Cognitive Science Program Advisory Board proposes the following changes to the B.S. Degree, the B.A. Degree, and the Minor in Cognitive Science.

Notes

1. The external reviewers for the 2005 Cognitive Science Self Study, Jeri Jaeger from the University at Buffalo and Jan Andrews from Vassar, strongly recommended that we introduce a required course into the Cognitive Science Major, both B.A. and B.S., which focuses on the brain and its role in cognitive science. They suggested that it would be in our best interest to develop a course within the Cognitive Science Program, i.e., with a "Cog" number, which expressly suits the needs of our students with respect to neuroscientific knowledge and its connections to the mind, much like what they do at Vassar.

2. The external reviewers also strongly recommended that we include a course on research methods in the B.A. program. (We also have one in the B.S. program.)

3. Experience derived from teaching the new Cognitive Science Capstone Seminar confirms the correctness of the reviewers' recommendations. Assessment data collected during the Capstone Course indicate that students are weak in their basic understanding of the brain and its relation to the mind. Faculty working with students on their Capstone Research Project find their lack of knowledge concerning research methods to be a significant problem.

4. There is general agreement that it is more important for Cognitive Science students to have a brain-oriented biopsychology experience than a general biopsychology experience, so the swap of "Brains, Minds, and Consciousness" for "Biopsychology" in the B.A. proposal is in their best interest.