



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE  
ACADEMY OF  
INTEGRATED SCIENCE  
VIRGINIA TECH

# BEHAVIORAL DECISION SCIENCE

MINOR

Would you like to build your expertise in understanding how people make decisions, and how to influence those decisions? Behavioral science reveals how people process information and make choices in social, economic, and civic contexts. Our classes build skills that will help you to recognize the cognitive biases people routinely exhibit that influence their decisions, and apply techniques for managing these limitations. You'll also learn how to apply probabilistic thinking to evaluate everything from your own personal choices to more complex social problems, and identify incentives and social dynamics that can promote positive collective outcomes in groups. Insights from the fields of psychology, neuroscience, and economics will provide you with a strong foundation to navigate the complexities of applied decision-making, and a toolkit for ethically influencing others' decisions to achieve better personal, professional, and societal outcomes.

For more information, please contact the faculty lead for the BDS Program, Dr. Jill Sundie at [jsundie@vt.edu](mailto:jsundie@vt.edu).

The new 2025 BDS Minor is a Pathways Minor! Students will cover at least 3 of the Pathways Concept Areas by completing this Minor, and courses addressing Ethical Reasoning and Intercultural & Global Awareness.

## Planned BDS Course offerings in 2025-2026:

Fall 2025:

BDS 2005 (2 sections, T/Th 11-12:15, and 12:30-1:45)

Spring 2026:

BDS 2005 (1 section), BDS 2006 (1 section), ECON/BDS 3134 (1 section), PSYC/BDS 4194 (Capstone Class option), BDS/ECON 4864 (Capstone Class option)

The 18-credit **BEHAVIORAL DECISION SCIENCE MINOR** courses for the 2025-26 academic catalog are:



## Required Courses (9 credits)

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| BDS 2005 | Fundamentals of Behavioral Decision Science I  |
| BDS 2006 | Fundamentals of Behavioral Decision Science II |

and choose one of the following:

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| SOC 2004      | Social Problems     |
| PPE 2894      | Gateway Course      |
| ECON/BDS 3134 | Choice and Behavior |



## Elective Courses (6 credits)

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| ECON 2005 | Principles of Economics                 |
| ECON 3034 | Economics of Poverty and Discrimination |
| ECON 3154 | Managerial Economics                    |
| ECON 4014 | Environmental Economics                 |
| ECON 4214 | Economics of Health Care                |
| ECON 4434 | Experimental Economics                  |

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|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| NEUR 2025/35   | Intro to Neuroscience + Lab          |
| NEUR 2026/36   | Intro to Neuroscience + Lab          |
| NEUR 2364      | Mind Altering Substances from Nature |
| NEUR 2464      | Neuroscience and Society             |
| NEUR 3084      | Cognitive Neuroscience               |
| NEUR/ECON 4454 | Neuroeconomics                       |

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|-----------|--|
| PSYC 1004 | Introductory Psychology                  |
| PSYC 1094 | Principles of Psychological Research     |
| PSYC 2064 | Introduction to Neuroscience of Behavior |
| PSYC 3064 | Human Behaviors and Natural Environments |
| PSYC 2084 | Social Psychology                        |
| PSYC 3054 | Health Psychology                        |

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|----------|------------------------|
| SOC 1004 | Introductory Sociology |
| SOC 2304 | Individual in Society  |
| SOC 2404 | Deviant Behavior       |



## Capstone Course Options (3 credits)

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|---------------|--|
| BDS/ECON 4864 | Developing Behavioral Science Policies and Interventions |
| PSYC/BDS 4194 | Predicting Social Behavior                               |



<https://www.ais.science.vt.edu/academics/bds.html>