

Dear Juniors,

If you are thinking about completing the MBB track in psychology, called Cognitive Science, you have until November 4th at 4pm to submit your application to WJH 218. The application can be found here: <http://www.wjh.harvard.edu/psych/ug/deadlines/PsyNeuro10.htm>. Please note that because MBB is a thesis only track, students must have a COLLEGE GPA of 3.5 or higher to apply.

Completing this application successfully requires a lot of planning ahead. There are many parts to a successful application

1) Statement of Purpose

We read these carefully, and are known to ask students to expand on them if they aren't detailed enough, so put some thought into describing why the MBB track specifically (rather than the Social and Cognitive Neuroscience track or general psychology), ie, why is studying your interests through the lens of Cognitive Science appealing to you? Because MBB is a thesis track, you should also include information on potential thesis topic(s) - the more detailed the better. Finally, you need to explain what makes your plan of study coherent (see item #2).

2) Plan of Study

When you fill out your courses on the application, you are committing to a set of courses you will take to complete your concentration. You can only change up to three courses without having to reapply for MBB, and will need to submit a rationale for changing, so pick carefully! We are looking to see that the course plan is rigorous, and that the courses "hang together" in some meaningful way. Psy 985 is strongly encouraged as one of the electives!

3) Concentration Adviser Approval

You should be discussing your interest in MBB and the application process now if you are planning to apply, because your CA can be really helpful in crafting your application. Then they just need to sign off on the final version of the application. Do not wait until the last minute to be in touch with them!

4) Faculty Approval

You will notice you need a signature for faculty approval; however, this does not mean to just find a faculty member to sign off on your application. Rather, you should identify a faculty member who will read and give you feedback on your statement of purpose and course plan. The person you choose now does not have to end up your thesis adviser, but s/he WILL be the person responsible for approving any course changes you may make in the future. Please spend some time picking a faculty member who will be helpful to you, and talk with your Concentration Adviser for

ideas about who to ask. Here is a list of departmental faculty members:

<http://www.isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k3007&pageid=icb.page18831>

Making an appointment for more info

You are also certainly welcome to make an appointment with me to discuss MBB itself or the application. Also, if your College GPA is not quite 3.5 but you have a strong interest in MBB, have been working in a lab, and have a potential thesis in mind, please come speak with me to find out about the petition process to apply to MBB.

Best of luck in completing your application!

Laura Chivers