Daniel Pace

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Education

B.S. Psychology (Expected Winter 2026), Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR

- GPA: 3.83
- Relevant Coursework: Research Methods, Cognitive Psychology, Neuroscience, Statistics, Learning & Cognition
- Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer, Linn-Benton Community College (GPA: 3.92)

Research Interests

- Decision-making under uncertainty and structural integrity in information environments
- Cognitive scaffolding and interface design for neurodivergent users (ADHD/ASD-informed)
- Human-AI interaction, theory of mind, and AI-native ethical systems
- Computational modeling of cognition, emergent systems, and cognitive error typology
- Engineering psychology applied to decision science and hybrid technology design

Research Experience

AI Learning Assistant, Research & Policy — Southern Oregon University (2024–2025)

- Designed AI-integrated learning tools and policy protocols, including metacognitive scaffolds, sentiment analysis pipelines, and ethical safeguard evaluations (OpenAI Safety Program)
- Co-authored institutional whitepapers on AI ethics and academic integrity; translated findings into actionable policy

Research Methods Training

- *Effects of Digital Therapy Interventions on Student Stress (2024):* Designed research protocol investigating CBT-style digital interventions including literature review, experimental design, power analysis, and statistical analysis plan
- *Frustration and Mood Effects in ASD (2025):* Integrated empirical literature with cognitive theory examining emotional regulation, frustration tolerance, and sensory load in autistic individuals

Computational Research Projects

- Structural Coherence Framework for Decision Analysis (2023–Present)
    - Built and deployed a decision analysis framework using five structural dimensions; implemented cross-domain toolkits for stability evaluation and policy design
- Relational Coherence Navigator (CoNav) (2025)
    - Browser-based application to guide decision-making with relational coherence modeling
    - Integrated with LLM-based assistants to enhance reasoning scaffolds across varied decision contexts
- Emergence Engine (E^2) — Agent-Based Cognitive Simulation (2025)
    - Developed cognitive simulation modeling adaptive heuristics and attention dynamics
    - Demonstrated emergent phase transitions, collective behavior, and ND strategy differentiation under constraint
- ACE (Adaptive Cognitive Enhancement) (2024)
    - Built a gamified task-tracking tool for executive function support using Next.js and Supabase
    - Incorporated adaptive reinforcement, task decomposition, and real-time feedback scaling
- Mindi — AI-Driven Chatbot & Personal Notetaking App (2024)
    - Developed interface for AI-augmented note-taking and episodic memory support in ADHD populations
    - Designed to scaffold executive function and reduce cognitive load in self-directed learning

Applied Psychology Experience

Community Developer and Leadership Educator — Campus Ambassadors; Campus 180 (2013-Present)

- Designed and facilitated group decision-making processes and conflict resolution frameworks for college student communities across 4 university campuses, observing how structural interventions affect decision quality under high uncertainty and social complexity

- Applied principles of behavioral psychology, group dynamics, and organizational development in real-time settings, developing practical understanding of how environmental structure affects cognition and behavior in naturalistic contexts
- Developed leadership training curriculum emphasizing executive function scaffolding, systems thinking, and adaptive decision-making strategies
- Co-managed residential community program (8-person capacity) creating structured living environments that balanced individual autonomy with collective coordination

Publications & Scholarly Output

- Pace, D. (2024). *Rethinking Academic Integrity in the Age of AI*. Southern Oregon University.
- Pace, D. (2024). *Proposal for OpenAI's Safety Testing Program*. Southern Oregon University.
- Pace, D. (2024). *Human-AI Creative Collaboration Framework (HAIC)*.
- Pace, D. (2024). *Cognitive Theories, Attention Dynamics, and Memory Mechanisms*. Poster presented, SOU.

Professional Experience

Data Systems & Process Analyst — Palm Harbor / Cavco Manufacturing (2017–Present)

- Built AI-enhanced workflow tools for document reconciliation, payroll automation, and cognitive load reduction
- Developed decision-support interfaces aligned with behavioral psych principles

Practicum Student — Jackson Street Youth Services (2025)

- 150+ hours supporting client data systems, documentation UX, and workflow design

Technical Skills

Human-Centered Design & Interface Research:

- Cognitive Scaffolding, User-Centered System Design, Usability Evaluation

Computational Modeling & Development:

- Agent-Based Modeling, Python, JavaScript, MATLAB, VBA
- Reinforcement Learning, LLM Integration, Simulation Design

Data Analysis & Statistics:

- Visualization, Regression, Sentiment Modeling, z-Scores, Test Classification
- Tools: Pandas, NumPy, Excel, SQL, Qualtrics

Research Methodologies:

- Experimental Design, Cognitive Modeling, Mixed Methods Synthesis
- Human-AI Interaction, Ethics Analysis, System Architecture Design

Awards & Honors

- Peak Student of the Year, Southern Oregon University (2024–2025)
- Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society Member
- Provost's List, Southern Oregon University (Spring 2025, Fall 2024)

Professional Development

- Google Data Analytics Professional Certificate (Coursera)

References available upon request.