Course Catalog

Neuroscience

Faculty

Kwan Cheng, Ph.D., Williams Endowed Professor in Interdisciplinary Physics, Physics and Astronomy
Laura M. Hunsicker-Wang, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Chemistry
Kimberley Phillips, Ph.D., Professor, Psychology; Co-Director
James Roberts, Ph.D., Ruth C. and Andrew G. Cowles Endowed Professor of Life Sciences, Biology; Co-Director
Carol Yoder, Ph.D., Professor, Psychology
Dany Munoz Pinto, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Engineering Science

Overview

The Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience is a multi-disciplinary program designed to provide an understanding of the nature and functioning of the nervous system from the molecular to the behavioral level. Courses, taught by faculty from the Biology, Psychology, Chemistry, and Physics and Astronomy departments, offer a broad spectrum of topics and approaches to the study of neural systems, structure and function. The major offers an opportunity for students to engage in supervised research in neuroscience and related areas and provides valuable experience to students interested in pursuing careers in the health professions or graduate study. Double majors in neuroscience and biology are not permitted.

Requirements

- The Major
- Guidelines for Acceptance of Majors
- Honors Program

The Major

The requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in neuroscience are as follows:

I. Specific degree requirements (52-57 credit hours)

   A. Core curriculum in neuroscience (8 hours):
NEUR 2310  Introduction to Neuroscience  
NEUR 2110  Neuroscience Laboratory  
NEUR 3457  Neurobiology  
NEUR 4000  Neuroscience Seminar (four semesters)  

B. Supporting courses in biology (8 hours):

BIOL 1311  Integrative Biology I  
BIOL 1111  Introductory Biology Laboratory  
BIOL 2312  Cells and Cell Systems  
BIOL 2112  Cell Systems Laboratory  

C. Supporting courses in chemistry (8 hours):

CHEM 1318  Chemistry in the Modern World  
CHEM 1118  Introduction to Analytical Methods  
CHEM 2319  Organic Chemistry  
CHEM 2119  Laboratory Methods in Organic Chemistry  

D. Supporting courses in psychology (11 hours):

PSYC 1300  Principles of Psychology  
PSYC 2401  Statistics and Methods I  
PSYC 2402  Statistics and Methods II  

E. Four elective courses from the following (12-16 hours).

Students must, in consultation with a Neuroscience advisor, develop a program of study, provide a written articulation of their academic and vocational goals, and discuss how their proposed program of study will move them toward these goals. The program of study will be presented to the committee when the major is declared. The committee will approve the program or suggested changes.

**Biology**

BIOL 3462  Vertebrate Physiology  
BIOL 3463  Developmental Biology  
BIOL 3459  Endocrinology
Chemistry

CHEM 3330  Biochemistry I
CHEM 4347  Advanced Interdisciplinary Topics: Neurochemistry

Neuroscience

NEUR 3310  Neuroethics
NEUR 4390  Research in Neuroscience

Philosophy

PHIL 3431  Philosophy of Mind
PHIL 3432  Philosophy of Science
PHIL 3459  Biomedical Ethics

Physics

PHYS 2311  An Introduction to Biophysics

Psychology

PSYC 2330  Fundamentals of Cognition
PSYC 3311  Sensation and Perception
PSYC 3431  Memory and Cognition
PSYC 3340  Psychopathology

II. University Requirements: completion of all other required elements of the Pathways curriculum and at least 124 credit hours.

Guidelines for Acceptance of Majors

Full acceptance in the major is granted when the following requirements are met:

I. Completion of NEUR 2310/2110, BIOL 1311/1111, CHEM 1318/1118, and PSYC 2401 with a grade of C or better.
An overall grade point average of at least 2.0.

II. Honors Program

To be eligible for graduation with Honors in Neuroscience, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.33 in all courses taken prior to the semester before graduation, a grade point average in neuroscience courses (core and supporting) of at least 3.50, and “A” in BIOL 4398 and 4399 or PSYC 4395 and 4396 (thesis research in Biology or Psychology).

To apply for graduation with Honors in Neuroscience, students should address a written request for consideration to the Faculty Advisory Committee. The request must be received no later than the first full week of the student’s final semester before graduation. The decision to confer or not to confer Honors will be made by the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Research Supervisor and will be based on the quality of the written thesis and its oral presentation in a colloquium.

Courses

NEUR-2310 Introduction to Neuroscience
A survey of basic neuroscience, starting with fundamentals of neuronal structures and ending with higher brain functions and their relations to mind and behavior. (Also listed as PSYC 2310). Prerequisite: PSYC 1300

NEUR-2110 Neuroscience Laboratory
The neuroscience laboratory provides students with a hands-on approach to understanding the scientific method through neuroscientific techniques and data analysis, including anatomical electrophysiological, and computer simulations. Students will engage in laboratory exercises as well as in solving problem sets. This course is appropriate for both non-majors and science majors Spring semester only. (Also listed as PSYC 2110) Prerequisite or Corequisite: NEUR/PSYC 2310.

NEUR-3310 Neuroethics
In this course students review and discuss ethical theories and principles, and then discuss ethical dilemmas arising from several currently devoted topics relevant to the brain, cognition, and behavior. Relevant bioethical and philosophical principles will be applied to each issue allowing students to acquired and develop skills in ethical analysis. In addition, relevant neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, and neurotechnologies will be discussed. (Also listed as PSYC 3310.) (Offered every other year.) Prerequisite: PSYC 1300 and PSYC/NEUR 2310 or Permission of Instructor
NEUR-3360 Special Topics in Neuroscience
A specialized course periodically offered in Neuroscience Program and participating departments (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Astronomy, and Psychology). May be repeated for up to 6 hours credit when topics vary. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor

NEUR-3457 Neurobiology
Neurobiology focuses on the organization and function of nervous tissues and systems. The course begins with an anatomical overview, followed by an examination of neural system function at the level of signaling and synaptic transmission, sensory systems, and central system integration and control. With this foundation, the course explores brain development and plasticity. Additional hours are required to monitor experiments. (also listed as BIOL 3457). (Offered every year). Prerequisites: BIOL 2413, NEUR 2310, and CHEM 2319, 2119

NEUR-4000 Neuroscience Seminar
This course is built around student presentations of independent research in neuroscience (NEUR 4390) and seminars from occasional external speakers. Neuroscience majors are required to register for this course each semester of their junior and senior years. The course is also open to other students interested in neuroscience.

NEUR-4-90 Research in Neuroscience
Independent empirical research arranged with a faculty member on problems in neuroscience. Results of the project are presented in written and oral form. A maximum of 6 semester hours is allowed. The research topic must be approved by the Faculty Advisory Committee. Prerequisites: Consent of instructor.