

Neuroscience

INTERDISCIPLINARY

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Neuroscience studies brain-behavior relationships in order to understand the roles they play in regulating both animal and human behavior. A thorough knowledge of the functions of the nervous system is essential to understanding the vicissitudes of psychological experience, general behavior, and clinical disorders. Therefore, the study of the nervous system and the brain anatomically,

physiologically, and biophysically, at both the microscopic and macroscopic levels, is central to the Neuroscience Program.

In recent years, neuroscience has become the most rapidly developing interdisciplinary area in the sciences. This field integrates the knowledge, research methods, and modern laboratory technology of biology, chemistry, psychology, and other scientific fields toward the common goal of understanding animal and human behavior. For this reason, the program's curriculum and list of instructors reflect a diversity of subdisciplines within a variety of departments.

The Neuroscience Program at Kenyon is interdisciplinary, differing from College departments in which faculty hold specific appointments. A primary objective of this program is to prepare students for entrance into graduate training or research occupations in neuroscience, neurochemistry, neurobiology, anatomy, physiology, physiological psychology, clinical psychology, behavioral science, and the health sciences (medicine and allied fields).

Students who are considering electing a concentration or a major in neuroscience should inquire about the program from any of the affiliated faculty members and should consult with Professor Niemiec, the program's director. Please note the ♦ symbol, which designates those courses most

appropriate for first-year students and upperclass students desiring to enter the neuroscience program.

First-Year and New Students

Introduction to Neuroscience

♦ NEUR 112 (1/2 unit)
*Niemiec (coordinator), Itagaki,
Lutton, staff*

This first-semester entry-level course begins by emphasizing that neuroscience is truly an interdisciplinary field. Consistent with this view, a number of faculty members from various departments give lectures and lead discussions throughout the semester. After covering brain evolution and the genetic basis of behavior, there is a review of the organization of the nervous system and the processes responsible for neural conduction and synaptic transmission. This knowledge is then applied to a comprehensive examination of the neurochemical, sensory, motor, developmental, motivational, cognitive, and emotional processes and structures that influence both normal and abnormal behavior. No prerequisites.

Neuroscience Concentration: Curriculum and Requirements

The neuroscience concentration is neither a major nor a minor, but an interdisciplinary program in which most of the course requirements are derived from the current course offerings in biology, chemistry, psychology, and anthropology. Specifically, this concentration involves three types of course requirements: required neuroscience courses, required basic science courses, and selected advanced science courses. For a student to have a neuroscience concentration listed on his or her transcript, a minimum of 4 units is required. Obviously, many of these courses could also count toward

a major in biology, chemistry, psychology, or anthropology.

Required Neuroscience Courses: 1 unit

- ◆ NEUR 112 (1/2 unit) Introduction to Neuroscience

This course also serves in lieu of PSYC 101 for all advanced psychology courses that are listed in the neuroscience curriculum. This multidisciplinary, introductory course is offered during the first semester.

- NEUR 471 (1/2 unit) Current Research Topics in Neuroscience

This culminating seminar for juniors and seniors is offered first semester for students who intend to fulfill the requirements for the concentration.

Required Basic Science Courses: 2 units minimum

BIOL 113 From Cell to Organism and BIOL 114 Genetics and Development of Organisms

CHEM 109 Neurochemistry (or CHEM 121 and 124/125 or CHEM 122 and 124/125)

PSYC 305 Physiological Psychology

Selected Advanced Science Courses: 1 unit selected from the following:

Biology Courses

BIOL 243 Comparative Animal Physiology

BIOL 261 Animal Behavior

BIOL 263 Molecular Biology and Genomics

BIOL 321 Developmental Biology

IOL 358 Neurobiology

IOL 366 Cell Physiology

Chemistry Courses

CHEM 231, 232 Organic Chemistry I, II

CHEM 256 Biochemistry

CHEM 341 Instrumental Analysis

Psychology Courses

PSYC 301 Cognitive Psychology

PSYC 302 Comparative Psychology

PSYC 303 Psychology of Learning and Motivation

PSYC 304 Neuropsychology

PSYC 307 Sensation and Perception

PSYC 347 Psychopharmacology

Anthropology Courses

ANTH 110 Human Origins

ANTH 321 Evolution and Human Evolution

Neuroscience Major: Curriculum and Requirements

The neuroscience major is intended primarily for students who are planning to attend graduate school in the many specialized fields of neuroscience, such as medical neuroscience, developmental neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience, or behavioral neuroscience. It is also an excellent major for students who are seriously interested in pursuing research careers or becoming clinical practitioners concerned with the biochemical or the biopsychological aspects of the nervous system or behavior (e.g., psychopharmacology, psychiatry, clinical neuropsychology).

One of the primary reasons for the development of this major is the increasing number of students who have graduated with self-designed "neuroscience" synoptic majors. Although synoptic majors allow individualistic and descriptive titles, the "neuroscience major" is now reserved for students who want to take a more uniform set of designated courses that is consistent with the expectations of the top graduate and medical schools.

Despite the need for uniform curriculum requirements for the neuroscience major, two tracks are available to fulfill the major: (a) a biochemical track and (b) a biopsychological track. Both tracks require 4 1/2 units of neuroscience core courses, plus 2 3/4 to 3 units of courses in one of the two tracks, for a total of 7 1/4 to 7 1/2 units for the major. The core courses, as well as the required courses for each of the tracks, are as follows:

Neuroscience Core Courses: 4 1/2 units

- ◆ NEUR 112 (1/2 unit) Introduction to Neuroscience

NEUR 471 (1/2 unit) Current Research Topics in Neuroscience

BIOL 113 and BIOL 114 (1 unit) From Cell to Organism, and Genetics and Development of Organisms

BIOL 358 (1/2 unit) Neurobiology

CHEM 121, 124/125 (or CHEM 122, 124/125) (1 unit) Introductory Chemistry I, II (or Honors Introductory Chemistry I, II)

PSYC 401 (1/2 unit) Research Methods in Biopsychology, or PSYC 403 (1/2 unit) Research Methods in Learning and Motivation, or PSYC 406 (1/2 unit) Research Methods in Sensation and Perception

PSYC 305 (1/2 unit) Physiological Psychology

Biochemical Track: 2 3/4 units

One selected biology course from the concentration list above (1/2 unit)

BIOL 359 (1/4 unit) Experimental Neurobiology, or CHEM 371 (1/4 unit) Biochemistry

Laboratory

CHEM 231, 232 (1 unit) Organic Chemistry I, II

Recommended courses:

CHEM 123 and 126

CHEM 233, 234

CHEM 256

One selected psychology course from the concentration list above (1/2 unit)

MATH 111 (1/2 unit) Calculus

Biopsychological Track: 2 3/4 to 3 units

One selected biology course from the concentration list above (1/2 unit)

BIOL 359 (1/4 unit) Experimental Neurobiology, or PSYC 405 (1/2 unit) Research Methods in

Physiological Psychology

CHEM 123 and 126 (1/2 unit)

Introductory Chemistry Laboratory I, II

PSYC 200 (1/2 unit) Statistical Analysis in Psychology
Two selected psychology courses from the concentration list above (1 unit)

Senior Exercise

The Senior Exercise consists of an original research proposal, written in a format appropriate for a scientific grant. The exercise can be completed at one of two times at the option of the student. It is due sometime within the first two months of either the first or second semester of the student's senior year. This exercise is evaluated by two members of the advisor's department and one member of the Neuroscience Program from another department.

In preparation for the Senior Exercise, students can gain research experience by participating in Independent Study (NEUR 493 and/or 494) under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Although independent study courses are not required for the major, conducting research is a valuable educational experience, particularly for students planning to pursue graduate or medical training.

Seniors participating in the Honors Program (NEUR 497-498) must complete an honors project and pass an oral exam. Assessment of the honors candidates is accomplished by two members of the advisor's department, one member of the Neuroscience Program from another department, and an outside examiner brought in by the advisor's department.

Year Course

Senior Honors

NEUR 497Y-498Y (1 unit)
Staff

This program for senior honors students culminates in the completion of a senior honors research project. The research is expected to be on a topic of particular relevance to the student's postgraduate plans. Students must select a research advisor from the faculty members in

the Neuroscience Program. They are expected to have done a thorough bibliographic search of the literature, written a short review paper, and formulated some tentative hypotheses during the spring semester of their junior year. Prerequisites: The student must have a 3.3 overall GPA, a 3.5 GPA in the neuroscience core courses, and have completed at least 5 units toward the major. Permission must be granted by the director of the Neuroscience Program.

First-Semester Courses

Introduction to Neuroscience

◆ NEUR 112 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec (coordinator), Itagaki, Lutton, staff

This course begins with a definition of neuroscience as an interdisciplinary field, in the context of the philosophy of science. Consistent with this view, a number of faculty members from various departments are responsible for giving lectures and leading discussions throughout the semester. After covering the basics of cellular neurophysiology, the development and organization of the human nervous system are examined in terms of sensory, motor, motivational, emotional, and cognitive processes. The neurological and biochemical bases of various brain and behavioral disorders are also examined. This course can be used as a substitute for the PSYC 101 prerequisite for all advanced-level psychology courses listed for the Neuroscience Concentration. No prerequisites.

Current Research Topics in Neuroscience

NEUR 471 (1/2 unit)
Niemiec

This capstone seminar is required of all students who plan to graduate with a neuroscience concentration or major. The seminar is intended to bring together the knowledge acquired from courses required for, or relevant to, the concentration and major. During the course of the semester, each student will submit

a critique of a published article and write a research proposal with the assistance of the instructor. Oral presentations are given in conjunction with each of these exercises. This seminar is limited to juniors or seniors who have taken NEUR 112 and completed two of the three required basic science courses for the concentration.

Individual Study

NEUR 493 (1/2 unit)
Staff

Students conduct independent research under the supervision of one of the faculty members affiliated with the Neuroscience Program. This course is restricted to juniors or seniors who are neuroscience majors or have taken (or are concurrently enrolled in) courses required for the neuroscience concentration. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and neuroscience director, along with demonstrated special interest.

Second-Semester Course

Individual Study

NEUR 494 (1/2 unit)
Staff

Students conduct independent research under the supervision of one of the faculty members affiliated with the Neuroscience Program. This course is restricted to juniors or seniors who are neuroscience majors or have taken (or are concurrently enrolled in) courses required for the neuroscience concentration. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and neuroscience director, along with demonstrated special interest.