

# Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/10/23 3:20 pm

Viewing: **SC-PHD-NEUR : Neuroscience, PhD**

Last approved: 11/11/22 2:32 pm

Last edit: 03/29/23 4:47 pm

Changes proposed by: gscott21

**Catalog Pages  
Using this Program**  
[Neuroscience, PhD](#)

**Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?**

Yes

**Requestor:**

## In Workflow

1. **NEUR Chair**
2. **SC Curriculum Committee**
3. SC Associate Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Graduate
5. Registrar-Programs

## Approval Path

1. 03/10/23 3:12 pm  
Saleet Jafri (sjafri):  
Rollback to Initiator
2. 03/10/23 3:24 pm  
Saleet Jafri (sjafri):  
Approved for NEUR  
Chair

## History

1. Nov 14, 2017 by  
clmig-jwehrheim
2. Jan 24, 2019 by Tory  
Sarro (vsarro)
3. Mar 3, 2020 by  
Jennifer Bazaz  
Gettys (jbazaz)
4. Mar 4, 2021 by  
Ginny Scott  
(gscott21)
5. Jul 27, 2022 by  
Jennifer Bazaz  
Gettys (jbazaz)
6. Nov 11, 2022 by  
Jennifer Bazaz  
Gettys (jbazaz)

Name	Extension	Email
Theodore Dumas	3-9170	tdumas@gmu.edu

**Effective Catalog:** 2023-2024

**Program Level:** Graduate

**Program Type:** Doctoral

**Degree Type:** Doctor of Philosophy

**Title:** Neuroscience, PhD

**Banner Title:** Neuroscience, PhD

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status** Approved

**Registrar’s Office Use Only – Program Start Term**

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter**

**Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status**

**Concentration(s):**

**Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code**

**College/School:** College of Science

**Department / Academic Unit:** Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program

**Jointly Owned Program?** No

**Justification**

What: Replacing PSYC 611 Adv Statistics in Psychology with PSYC 642 and 643.

Why: PSYC 611 has been discontinued.

**Total Credits Required:** Total credits: 72

**Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:** SC-PHD-NEUR

**Registrar/IRR Use  
Only – Program CIP  
Code**

**Admission  
Requirements:**

## Admissions

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University-wide admissions policies can be found in the [Graduate Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog.

To apply for this program, please complete the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#).

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in a relevant field and undergraduate courses in organic chemistry, cell biology, and calculus. Coursework in biochemistry (e.g. [BIOL 483](#) General Biochemistry), cell biology (e.g. [BIOL 484](#) Cell Signaling and Disease), and molecular genetics (e.g. [BIOL 482](#) Introduction to Molecular Genetics) is highly recommended. Admission requires a minimum GPA of 3.25 in undergraduate work. The applicant's goal statement should relate to the research interests of at least one faculty member in the program and include the names of two faculty members who may be suitable as advisors or supervisory committee members.

To apply, complete the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#), supply a goal statement, two copies of official transcripts from each college and graduate institution attended, three letters of recommendation from faculty members or individuals who have firsthand knowledge of the applicant's academic or research capabilities. TOEFL scores are required of all international applicants.

**Program-Specific  
Policies:**

## Policies

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For policies governing all graduate programs, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#).

### Reduction of Credits

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For students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree in a related field from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent, the number of required credits may be reduced up to 30 credits, subject to approval of the program faculty and the college's associate dean for student affairs. See [AP.6.5.2 Reduction of Credits](#) for more information.

### Transfer of Credit

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An alternative to the reduction of credit is a transfer of credit. With this option, up to 24 credits of previous, relevant graduate coursework may be transferred into the program, provided those credits have not been applied toward a previous degree.

**Degree Requirements:**

Students should refer to the [Admissions & Policies](#) tab for specific policies related to this program.

### Doctoral Coursework

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## Core Science

<a href="#">NEUR 702</a>	Research Methods	3
Select one statistics option from the following:		3-4
<a href="#">ECE 528</a>	Introduction to Random Processes in Electrical and Computer Engineering	
<a href="#">PSYC 611</a>	<del>Advanced Statistics</del>	
<a href="#">PSYC 642</a>	<b>General Linear Modeling I</b>	
<a href="#">PSYC 643</a>	<b>General Linear Modeling II</b>	
<a href="#">STAT 535</a>	Analysis of Experimental Data	
<a href="#">STAT 544</a>	Applied Probability	
<a href="#">STAT 554</a>	Applied Statistics I	

## Core Neuroscience

<a href="#">NEUR 601</a>	Developmental Neuroscience	3
<a href="#">NEUR 602</a>	Cellular Neuroscience	3
<a href="#">NEUR 603</a>	Mammalian Neuroanatomy	3
<a href="#">NEUR 701</a>	Neuroscience Laboratory	3

## Rotations and Readings

<a href="#">NEUR 703</a>	Laboratory Rotation and Readings (taken three times)	9
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## Electives

Select 20-21 credits of electives or independent research in order to achieve 48 pre-dissertation credits. The courses must be approved by the student's advisor, providing further substantive or methodological specialization.	20-21
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Elective course options for students interested in attaining professional skills include:

[COS 600](#) Multidisciplinary Problem Solving and Leadership

[Complete the Business Fundamentals Graduate Certificate and receive both the graduate certificate and the Neuroscience PhD upon completion of both programs' requirements.](#)

Total Credits	47-49
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## Publication

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An additional requirement for graduation calls for students to have at least one publication (in print or in press) in a refereed journal.

## Doctoral Committee and Proposal

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When coursework is nearing completion, the student should form a doctoral committee of at least three graduate faculty members and start preparing their dissertation proposal. Students in consultation with their advisor identify which faculty are appropriate to be a part of their committee. The dissertation committee administers the qualifying exam and evaluates the dissertation proposal as well as the dissertation itself. At least one of the committee members must be outside of the dissertation advisor's department.

## Candidacy Examination and Advancement to Candidacy

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The doctoral candidacy examination includes written and oral components. After passing the candidacy exam and receiving committee approval for the dissertation proposal, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy.

## Dissertation Research

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Note: No more than 24 combined credits from [NEUR 998](#) Dissertation Proposal and [NEUR 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation may be applied toward satisfying doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 12 credits of [NEUR 998](#) Dissertation Proposal.

Select 24 credits from the following:	24
<a href="#">NEUR 998</a> Dissertation Proposal	
<a href="#">NEUR 999</a> Doctoral Dissertation	
Total Credits	24

**Retroactive Requirements Updates:**

**Plan of Study:**

**Program Outcomes**

## Additional Program Information

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*This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.*

**Courses offered via distance (if applicable):**

**What is the primary delivery format for the program?**  
 Face-to-Face Only

**Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?**  
 No

**Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?**  
 No

**Related Departments**

**Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?**  
 No

**Are you adding or removing a licensure component?**  
 No

## Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

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Is this change a simple retitling of an existing program, with no other changes, to any existing program content, curriculum requirements, etc?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral)?

No

Percentage of total credits containing new course content. ("New course content" is defined by SACSCOC as content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program at the same instructional level. Do not exclude gen ed credits in calculations for undergraduate programs.)

0%-24%

Does this change include the addition of a distance education or face-to-face method of delivery for this program?

No

Does this change include the addition of a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilities be needed?

No

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

### OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

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Comments or Notes

## Green Leaf Program Designation

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Is this a Green Leaf program? No

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

**Additional Attachments**

**SCHEV Proposal**

**Executive Summary**

**Reviewer Comments**

**Saleet Jafri (sjafri) (03/10/23 3:12 pm):** Rollback: We need to have faculty discussion on this and need to see the syllabi for the new courses.

**Additional Comments**

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi\_required.eshtml%

Key: 509