

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 02/23/24 4:20 pm

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

Last approved: 05/24/23 1:58 pm

Last edit: 03/01/24 10:04 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages Using this Program

[Neuroscience, PhD](#)

No Longer 2024-2025
Anticipated closure date (i.e., calendar
Rationale for

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?
No

Effective Catalog:

2024-2025

Program Level:

Graduate

Program Type:

Doctoral

Degree Type:

Doctor of Philosophy

Title:

Neuroscience, PhD

Approval Criteria

1. What was the process used within your academic

2. Who was involved in approving the badge?

3. What evidence was used to identify need/demand

4. Please attest to the following statements regarding your badge

a. Have you ensured there are no other existing badges

b. Has CPE confirmed the proposed badge does not

c. Has the instructor(s) for this badge experience been

d. Is there a contact hour minimum?

e. Is an assessment required?

f. Does this badge provide a benefit for current or

5. Is this badge co-sponsored with another organization, association, or unit? (If you would like an

a. What is the organization, program, or department

Earning Criteria

- In Workflow
1. NEUR Chair

2. SC Curriculum Committee

3. SC Assistant Dean

4. Assoc Provost- Graduate

5. Registrar-Programs

- Approval Path
1. 02/23/24 4:52 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)

7. May 24, 2023 by
Ginny Scott
(gscott21)

Course:**Badge:****Participant:****Pavment:****Portfolio:****Presentation:****Assessment:****Credential:****Education****Other:****Project:****Professional****Schedule/Registration:****Volunteer:****Skills Tag****Skills Tag****Badge Attributes****Please select one from each category:****Achievement Type:****Mastery Level:****Time Commitment:****Cost:****Industry Standards:****Recommendations:****Issuance information and Pricing***Pricing: See <https://cpe.amu.edu/digitalbadgespricing/> for more information.***Estimated Number of Badges Expected to be Issued:****Notes:**

- All badge requests will be routed to CPE for review and approval. Please allow 7 business days for processing. A draft badge template and design will be provided
- A Mason Digital Credentials Advisory Group may be developed to review badge development on an annual basis to determine which badges are underutilized and may need to be archived. Earners for any archived badges will always retain
- To view examples of all active badges at Mason, please see:

Banner Title: Neuroscience, PhD**Is this a retitling of an existing program?****Existing Program****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):

INTO Major(s):

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

College/School: College of Science

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

**Jointly Owned
Program?** No

Participating

Participating

Justification

What: Referring applicants to central admissions language and removing extraneous wording.
Why: To make the program more adaptable to changes in university policies.

What: Allowing up to 21 credits of 998.

Why: IPN requests the update to allow more flexibility for students and to align with other doctoral programs in the College of Science.

Catalog Published Information

**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

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the [Graduate Admissions Policies](#) section of this catalog. [International students and students having earned international degrees should also refer to Admission of International Students for additional requirements.](#)

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

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in a relevant field from an institution of higher education accredited by a Mason-recognized U.S. and undergraduate courses in organic chemistry, cell biology, and calculus: institutional accrediting agency or international equivalent. Completed coursework should include 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 studies.

~~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.~~

Application Requirements

To apply for this program, prospective students should submit ~~please complete~~ the George Mason University Admissions Application and its required supplemental documentation, and: Application:

- A goals statement related to the research interests of at least one faculty member in the program.
- The names of two faculty members who may be suitable to serve as advisors or supervisory committee members, and
- Three ~~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.

The GRE is not required for admission into this program. ~~capabilities:~~

~~TOEFL scores are required of all international applicants.~~

Program-Specific Policies:

Policies

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

~~Reduction of Credits 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 An alternative to the reduction of credit is a transfer of credit.~~ Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into ~~With this~~ Program

Previously earned and ~~option, up to 24 credits of previous,~~ relevant graduate credits ~~coursework~~ may be eligible for transfer into this program; details can be found in the Credit by Exam or Transfer section of this catalog. ~~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

Core Science

NEUR 702	Research Methods	3
Select one statistics option from the following:		3-8
ECE 528	Introduction to Random Processes in Electrical and Computer Engineering	
PSYC 642	General Linear Modeling I	
& PSYC 643	and General Linear Modeling II	
STAT 535	Analysis of Experimental Data	
STAT 544	Applied Probability	
STAT 554	Applied Statistics I	

Core Neuroscience

NEUR 601	Developmental Neuroscience	3
NEUR 602	Cellular Neuroscience	3
NEUR 603	Mammalian Neuroanatomy	3
NEUR 701	Neuroscience Laboratory	3

Rotations and Readings

NEUR 703	Laboratory Rotation and Readings (taken three times)	9
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Electives

Select 16-21 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. 16-21

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: 48

Publication

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

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

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

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 ~~21~~ 12 credits of [NEUR 998](#) Dissertation Proposal.

Select 24 credits from the following:

[NEUR 998](#) Dissertation Proposal

[NEUR 999](#) Doctoral Dissertation

Total Credits 24

**Retroactive
Requirements
Updates:**

Plan of Study:

**Honors
Information:**

**Accelerated
Description/Dual
Degree
Description:**

**INTO-Mason
Requirements:**

College
Requirements &
Policies:

Department /
Academic Unit
Requirements &
Policies:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

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

Courses offered via
distance (if
applicable):

Indicate whether
students are able

What is the
primary delivery

Face-to-Face Only

format for the program?

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

Off-campus details:

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

Please explain:

Related

Departments

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Please explain:

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Please explain:

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Is the content of the new program closely related to that of an existing approved program at the same instructional level (i.e., baccalaureate, master's, doctoral)?

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this new program considered to be "advancing the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at lower degree level, new content is at the higher degree level)?

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this new program considered to be "lowering the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at higher degree level, new content is at the lower degree level)?

Which existing approved program(s)?

Is this a re-opening of a program that was closed to admission within the last five years?

Date of Program Closure

What are the methods of delivery for the program?

Does this program include a course/credit-based competency-based education delivery option?

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

Which existing approved program(s)?

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

What is the new method of delivery?

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

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

Additional library/learning resources needed?

No

Description of institutional impact:

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program? No

Green Leaf**Designation**

Sustainability-focused academic programs require at least one green leaf course. Either that course is itself sustainability-focused or else the program requires a set of sustainability-related courses with aggregated substance equivalent to a sustainability focused course.

Relationship to**Existing Courses****Relationship to****Existing Programs**

List sustainability-focused courses currently required in the degree

Sustainability-related academic programs either require at least one sustainability-related course or else offer any green leaf course as an option or elective *

List sustainability-related courses currently required in the degree

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Impacted
Departments

Additional
Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer
Comments

Additional
Comments

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

[%wi_required.eshtml%](#)

Attached
Document

[%attach_document.eshtml%](#)

Key: 509