Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 03/25/25 10:29 am

Viewing: SC-PHD-NEUR : Neuroscience, PhD

Last approved: 04/26/24 11:12 am

Last edit: 03/25/25 2:14 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 Assistant Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Graduate
5. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 03/25/25 11:14 am 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)

8. Apr 26, 2024 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)

Name	Extension	Email
Theodore Dumas	9170	tdumas@gmu.edu

Effective Catalog: 2025-2026

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: Clarification in wording of the publication requirement.

Why: To aid in advising and student clarity.

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.

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. 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.

Application Requirements

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

- 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 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.

Program-Specific Policies:

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into this Program

Previously earned and relevant graduate credits may be eligible for transfer into this program; details can be found in the Credit by Exam or Transfer section of this catalog.

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 & PSYC 643	General Linear Modeling I 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
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

To fulfill an additional graduation requirement, students must be the primary author of at least one publication (in print or press) in a peer-reviewed journal. The research presented in the publication must be deemed new and original by the dissertation committee. Co-first authored papers will be accepted provided the dissertation committee determines that the authors contributed equally, and that their respective work is delineated.
~~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 credits of NEUR 998 Dissertation Proposal.

Select 24 credits from the following:		24
NEUR 998	Dissertation Proposal	
NEUR 999	Doctoral Dissertation	
Total Credits		24

Retroactive Requirements Updates:

Plan of Study:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

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

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 instructiona 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

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

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

Additional Comments

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

%wi_required.eschtml%

Key: 509