Graduate Program

The Neuroscience Program is an interdisciplinary and highly individualized Ph.D. program. Students have varied backgrounds but typically have undergraduate degrees in psychology, biology, electrical engineering, or computer science. The Neuroscience Program guides students to become productive, scholarly neuroscientists with access to careers in academic research, medicine, industry or non-research careers such as law, policy, or journalism. The faculty have broad and diverse research interests; areas of particular strength include aging, brain plasticity, cognitive functions, neurogenomics, molecular bases of development and disease and neuroengineering. Integrative and collaborative studies that bridge two or more labs are encouraged.

Admission

Applications are considered individually by the admissions committee, usually for the fall semester. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required. International applicants must meet the minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) requirement set by the Graduate College. Admission and financial aid are considered together.

Financial Aid

The Neuroscience Program is committed to supporting its students and makes every effort to ensure that students who remain in good academic standing receive full support including tuition waiver and stipend throughout their tenure in the program. Support may come in the form of fellowships, traineeships, research assistantships, or teaching assistantships according to the student’s qualifications.

Doctor of Philosophy in Neuroscience

Because of the breadth of the fields in this program, the coursework is tailored to the student’s fields of interest as declared by a major and at least two minor areas of concentration from among those listed above. A faculty committee of representatives from the major and minor areas will then meet regularly with the student to plan coursework and research experience. The goal of this plan is to allow maximum flexibility while providing students with close guidance. Courses and laboratory research experience are supplemented by weekly seminars in neuroscience.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEUR 520</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Neuroscience (Section 1, Seminar - each of first 4 semesters)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUR 500</td>
<td>Topics in Neuroscience</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUR 520</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Neuroscience (Section 2, Professional Development Program.)</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
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Other Requirements

Other requirements may overlap
All students must complete a minimum of one semester of service as a teaching assistant (one semester @50% or 2 semesters @25% appointment) or the requirement may be met by education outreach activity under the supervision of a Neuroscience Program faculty member.

Masters Degree Required Before Admission to Ph.D.? No
Qualifying Exam Required: Yes
Preliminary Exam Required: Yes
Final Exam/Defense Required: Yes
Dissertation Deposit Required: Yes
Minimum GPA: 3.0

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s Program for Graduate Study (http://www.neuroscience.uiuc.edu/program/study) and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).