

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Psychology course name change - PSYC 3346
and revision to the undergraduate neuroscience major degree plan
College: COLART Department: Psychology

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Dr. Wendy Francis

I have read the enclosed proposal and approve this proposal on behalf of the department.

Wendy A. Francis

10/18/24

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR – Dr. Selfa Chew-Melendez

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college curriculum committee.

10/21/24

Signature

Date


COLLEGE DEAN – Dr. Anadeli Bencomo

I have read the enclosed documents and approve the proposal on behalf of the college. I certify that the necessary funds will be allocated by the college in support of this proposal.


Signature

Date

UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 09/30/2024 

From: Dr. Katherine Serafine, Psychology; Dr. Arshad Khan, Biological Sciences; Dr. Kristine Garza, Biological Sciences; Dr. Bruce Cushing, Biological Sciences; Mx. Kristina Barron, College of Science Central Office for Readiness and Engagement (CORE)

Through:  Dr. Wendy Francis, Psychology & Dr. Kendall Hirschi, Biological Sciences

Through: Dean Anadeli Bencomo, Liberal Arts & Dean Robert Kirken, Science

To: Dr. Selfa Chew-Melendez (Chair, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee) & Dr. Kristine Garza (Chair, Science Curriculum Committee)

Proposal Title: Revision to the Undergraduate Neuroscience Major Degree Plan

Since its founding in 2019, the interdisciplinary neuroscience major at UTEP has successfully graduated several students despite the complexities of pioneering a new major across two Colleges. Dr. Garza and Mx. Barron with the College of Science advising staff in the Central Office for Readiness and Engagement (CORE) identified several areas for improvement and streamlining, and following consultation with co-directors Dr. Serafine and Dr. Khan, and former chair of Biological Sciences Dr. Cushing, the current proposal adjusts the degree plan in the following ways:

- 1) The two independent “concentrations” have been merged into one omnibus B.S. degree in Neuroscience that fosters interdisciplinary studies via requiring students to take a balance of coursework in both Colleges, primarily through the Psychology Department and the Biological Sciences Department as part of the new “neuroscience major core requirements” and “neuroscience major elective” subsections of the degree plan. Students can further emphasize coursework in either College via a larger menu of “interdisciplinary electives” which has been revised and expanded to focus on content that will prepare students for careers in biomedical fields, research careers and health services.
- 2) The prior degree plans had flexibility limitations that made it challenging for pre-med students to select Neuroscience as their major. The revised omnibus degree plan incorporates flexibility for students to take required pre-med coursework as part of the neuroscience degree, which we predict will increase the attractiveness of this program to students considering medical school. This flexibility is provided in the “interdisciplinary electives” section of the updated degree program. Neuroscience majors will be required to take 9 credit hours of BIOL/CBCH/ZOOL courses and 9 credit hours of PSYC courses,

ensuring that the degree remains interdisciplinary but allowing students to choose courses that best fits their career aspirations.

- 3) The older degree plans included coursework that either was not offered regularly (e.g., capstone course that was to be created but never came to fruition) or required prerequisite credits that were not available to neuroscience majors. These courses have all been eliminated from the revised degree plan. This includes:
 - a. BIOL 4375 or PSYC 4375 Neuroscience Capstone,
 - b. CS 4320 Artificial Intelligence
 - c. CS 4385 Biomedical Instrumentation
 - d. HSCI 4308 Independent Study in Health
 - e. SPLP 4312 Neural Bases of Speech and Language
 - f. STAT 3320 Probability and Statistics
- 4) Students who earn a “D” or an “F” in the required BIOL 2340 or PSYC 2324 Introductory Neuroscience course must retake the same section for ‘Grade Replacement’. This is problematic since the two Departments rotate who teaches the course on a semester basis (with Biological Sciences offering it in Spring and Psychology Offering it in Fall) thus requiring students to wait an entire year to retake the failed course. Therefore, we propose to cross list BIOL 2340 and PSYC 2324 such that students who fail one section can re-enroll the very next semester to retake the course and avoid falling further behind on their graduation timeline. This course is taught using identical materials and texts, and the instructors of record consult biannually to maintain consistency in course content, assessment and pedagogical approaches. Therefore, the courses are identical and should be interchangeable for students, and the cross-listing edit will allow this to be implemented in Goldmine.
- 5) Finally, since the original implementation of the major, several new neuro-content courses have been added to the catalog. These courses have been integrated into the neuroscience major specifically in the component area of “Interdisciplinary Electives” as well as “Additional Coursework”. These courses include:
 - a. BIOL 4389 Developmental Neurobiology
 - b. PSYC 4313 Physical & Cognitive Aging

Additionally, one other course has changed numbers (ZOOL 4384 is now BIOL 4350: Cellular Neuroscience) and has been included as part of “Major Requirements”. These changes are reflected in the proposal.

Proposed Degree Plan BS Neuroscience

Code	Title	Hours
University Core		42
Designated Core ^c		
CS 1310	Intro-Computational Thinking	
MATH 1411	Calculus I	
PHYS 1403 & PHYS 1404	General Physics I and General Physics II	
OR		
PHYS 2320 & PHYS 2120	Introductory Mechanics and Laboratory for PHYS 2320	
and		
PHYS 2321 & PHYS 2121	Introductory Electromagnetism and Laboratory for PHYS 2321	
PSYC 1301	Introduction to Psychology	
Major Courses		
Required:		
BIOL 1305 & BIOL 1107	General Biology and Topics in Study of Life I	4
BIOL 1306 & BIOL 1108	Organismal Biology and Organismal Biology Lab	4
PSYC 3201 & PSYC 3101	Gen Experimental Psychology and Lab for Gen Exper Psyc	3
BIOL 2340 ^c or PSYC 2324 ^c	Introductory Neuroscience	3
BIOL 3192	Introductory Neuroscience	
Or PSYC 3102	Professional Development	1
	Professional Development	

Code		Title	Hours
BIOL 4350		Cellular Neuroscience	
Chemistry Courses			
Required:			
CHEM 1305 & CHEM 1105		General Chemistry and Laboratory for CHEM 1305	4
CHEM 1306 & CHEM 1106		General Chemistry and Laboratory for CHEM 1306	4
CHEM 2324 & CHEM 2124		Organic Chemistry and Lab for Organic Chemistry 2324	4
CHEM 3330		Biochem I:Struc & Function	3
Math Sequence			3-4
STAT 2480	Elementary Statistics		
Or PSYC 1303	Statistical Methods		
Interdisciplinary Major Electives			
Select eighteen hours from the following, nine of which must be upper division. 9 hours must be BIOL/CBCH/ZOOL and 9 hours must be PSYC.			18
Additional Coursework			
Select 12 hours from the following in consultation with advisor, 6 hours must be upper division			12
Select up to 9 additional credit hours in consultation with your advisor, 3 hours must be upper division.			
Total Hours			120
C Course requires a grade of C or better			

120

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Communication
COMM 1611 - Written & Oral Comm.
ESOL 1311 - Expos Engrl Compos-Sprkr ESL
ESOL 1312 - Res & Crit Writng Spkr ESL
RWS 1301 - Rhetoric & Composition I
RWS 1302 - Rhetoric & Composition II
RWS 1601 - Rhetoric, Composition, Comm.
See CAPP ENGL 1311
See CAPP ENGL 1312
Course Substitution
Note:
American History
HIST 1301 - History of U.S. to 1865
HIST 1302 - History of U.S. since 1865
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Language, Philosophy, & Culture
Select One
AFST 2300 - Intro-African Amer Studies
CHIC 2302 - Latina/o Presence in the U.S.
ENGL 2311 - Eng Literature
ENGL 2312 - Eng Literature
ENGL 2313 - Intro to American Fiction
ENGL 2314 - Intro to American Fiction
ENGL 2318 - Intro to American Poetry
FREN 2322 - The Making of the "Other Americas"
HIST 2301 - World History to 1500
HIST 2302 - World History Since 1500
PHIL 1301 - Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 2306 - Ethics
RS 1301 - Intro to Religious Studies
SPAN 2340 - Seeing & Naming
WS 2300 - Intro to Women's Studies
WS 2350 - Global Feminism
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Government/Political Science
POLS 2310 - Intro to Politics
POLS 2311 - American Govt & Politics
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Social and Behavioral Sciences
Select One
ANTH 1301 - Intro to Physical Anthropolgy/Archeology
ANTH 1302 - Intro to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 1310 - Cultural Geography
ANTH 2320 - Intro to Linguistics
ASIA 2300 - Asian American Studies
CE 2326 - Econ for Engrs & Scientists
CHIC 2311 - Intro to Chicano Studies
COMM 2350 - Interpersonal Comm.
COMM 2372 - Mass Media & Society
ECON 2303 - Principles of Economics
ECON 2304 - Principles of Economics
EDPC 1301 - Intro to Ed Psychology
EDU 1342 - Action Research in the Classroom
ENGL 2320 - Intro to Linguistics
GEOG 1310 - Cultural Geography
LEAD 2300 - Leadership in Action
LING 2320 - An Intro to Linguistics
LING 2340 - Lang. Inside & Out: Sel Topics
PSYC 1301 - Intro to Psychology
SOCI 1301 - Intro to Sociology
SOCI 1310 - Cultural Geography

Creative Arts
Select One
ART 1300 - Art Appreciation
ARTH 1305 - History of Art I
ARTH 1306 - History of Art II
CHIC 1311 - Chicano/a Fine Arts Appreciation
DANC 1304 - Dance Appreciation
FILM 1390 - Intro Art of Motion Pict.
MUSL 1324 - Music Appreciation
MUSL 1327 - Jazz to Rock
MUSL 2321 - Intro to Music History
THEA 1313 - Intro to Theater
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Component Area Option
Select One
BUSN 1301 - Intro to Global Business
COMM 1301 - Public Speaking
COMM 1302 - Business/Profession Comm.
CS 1310 - Intro to Computer Programming
CS 1320 - Computer Programming Sci/Engr
EL 1301 - Eng Innovation & Leadership
ENGR 1301 - Eng Innovation and Leadership
ENGR 1303 - Applied Engineering Analysis
LEAD - 1300 - Introduction to Leadership
SCI 1301 - Inquiry in Math & Science
SPLP 1312 - Comm. Var. Across the Lifespan
UNIV 1301 - Seminar/Critical Inquiry
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:
Life and Physical Sciences
Select One Sequence
PHYS 1403 - General Physics I
PHYS 1404 - General Physics II
PHYS 2420 - Intro Mechanics (+lab & wrkshp)
PHYS 2421 - Intro Electromag. (+lab & wrkshp)
See CAPP
Course Substitution
Note:


SECOND COLUMN - MAJOR REQUIREMENTS AREA

C2 -- Neuroscience Major Electives Menu
BIOL/CBCH/ZOOL Elective Options
Select One
BIOL 3314/3115 - Molecular Cell Biology (lecture/lab)
BIOL 3320 - Genetics
BIOL 3321 - Evolution
BIOL 3330 - Histology
BIOL 4388 - Mammalian Physiology
CBCH 3316 - Membrane Biology
CBCH 4414 - Cellular Biochemistry
BIOL 4300 - Introduction to Bioinformatics
BIOL 4321 - Developmental Biology
BIOL 4389 - Developmental Neurobiology
PSYC Elective Options
Select One
PSYC 3320 - Learning and Memory
PSYC 3330 - Sensation and Perception
PSYC 3346 - Drugs of Abuse and Behavior
PSYC 4313 - Physical and Cognitive Aging
PSYC 3348 - Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 4324 - Psychobiology
PSYC 4341 - Motivation and Emotion
F -- Additional Coursework
Select One
CHEM 2325/2125 - Organic Chemistry II (lecture/lab)
BIOL 3314/3115 - Molecular Cell Biology
BIOL 3330 - Histology
BIOL 3320 - Genetics
BIOL 3321 - Evolution
BIOL 4198 - Special Problems
BIOL 4298 - Special Problems
BIOL 4320 - Endocrinology
BIOL 4324 - Animal Behavior
BIOL 4388 - Mammalian Physiology
BIOL 4389 - Developmental Neurobiology
BIOL 4395 - Topics in Biology (can only be taken twice)
BIOL 4398 - Special Problems
CBCH 3316 - Membrane Biology
CBCH 4414 - Cellular Biochemistry
HSCI 3305 - Substance Use and Society
MICR 2340/2141 - General Microbiology (lecture/lab)
PHIL 3301 - Philosophy of Mind
PSYC 2310 - Lifecycle Development
PSYC 2312 - Intro to Psychopathology
PSYC 3320 - Learning and Memory
PSYC 3330 - Sensation and Perception
PSYC 3346 - Drugs of Abuse and Behavior
PSYC 3347 - Behavior Modification
PSYC 3348 - Cognitive Psychology
PSYC 3350 - Health Psychology
PSYC 4310 - Adolescent Psychology
PSYC 4312 - Adv Psychopathology
PSYC 4313 - Physical and Cognitive Aging
PSYC 4324 - Psychobiology
PSYC 4341 - Motivation and Emotion
WS 3390 - Women's Studies: Special Topics
ZOOL 4181 - Vertebrate Physiology Methods

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

Date: 10/15/24

From: Dr. Katie Serafine, Psychology 

Through: Dr. Wendy Francis, Psychology 

Through: Dr. Anadeli Bencomo, COLART

To: Dr. Selfa-Chew, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Proposal Title: PSYC 3346 Name Change

Select the proposal content (select as many as apply) and provide the rationale.

Content

☐ New program or ☐ Program Change

- ☐ Bachelor's
- ☐ Master's
- ☐ Doctoral/Professional
- ☐ Certificate
- ☐ Fast Track
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Concentration/Track

☐ New Course

☐ Closure (program, certificate, minor, concentration)

☒ Change

- ☐ CIP Code
- ☐ Program/certificate SCH
- ☒ Course Title
- ☐ Course Description
- ☐ Course Prerequisite/Restriction
- ☐ Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

Proposal to change the name of our course PSYC 3346 Drugs of Abuse and Behavior to "Drugs, the Brain and Behavior" to align with destigmatizing language recommendations by the National Institutes of Health.

COURSE CHANGE FORM

COPY OF CATALOG PAGE NOT REQUIRED

All fields below are required

College : COLART

Department : Psychology

Effective Term : Fall 2025

Rationale for changing the course:

The term "abuse" is being phased out as stigmatizing language by the National Institutes of Health. For example, the National Institute on Drug Abuse is changing its name to the National Institute on Drugs and Addiction. Further, the current course title fails to capture course content dedicated to non-addictive substances (i.e., medications) which are also a critical component of curriculum. The name change to "Drugs, the Brain and Behavior" better captures the curriculum and removes the stigmatizing term "abuse". Further, this also highlights the role of the brain and emphasis on neuroscience.

All fields below are required

Subject Prefix and number PSYC 3346

Course Title Drugs of Abuse and Behavior

(Course descriptions are limited to 600 characters)

(Course titles are limited to 29 characters)

Change	From	To
PSYC 3346	Drugs of Abuse and Behavior	Drugs, the Brain and Behavior

These changes will be reflected in Banner, Goldmine, and the catalog