

CURRICULUM PROPOSAL APPROVAL PAGE

Proposal Title: Updates to the Neuroscience Major Degree Plan

College: Liberal Arts Department: Psychology

DEPARTMENT CHAIR- Dr. Wendy Francis

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

Wendy S. Francis

09/09/2026

Signature

Date

COLLEGE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE CHAIR - Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Meléndez

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

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

CURRICULUM CHANGE MEMO

updated 07.04.25

Date: 082526
From: Dr. Katherine Serafine, Psychology & Dr. Kristine Garza, Biological Sciences
Through: Dr. Wendy Francis, Psychology 
Through: Dr. Anadeli Bencomo, COLART
To: Dr. Selfa A. Chew-Melendez, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Proposal Title: Updates to the Neuroscience Major Degree plan

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
 - ☐ Graduate Program Admission Requirements

Rationale

We are updating the neuroscience major to move courses into different sections of the degree plan in alignment with category (e.g., one course changed to being listed as a block elective) and to add in new courses that recently converted from seminars to standalone course number content classes. We replaced an older version of a research methods class with a new version being offered by Psychology. Finally we are also cross-listing one course so students can retake it in either psychology or biology if needed. Specific changes are as follows:

- 1) PSYC 2324 and BIOL 2340 are the same class and will be cross listed using both numbers so that students can retake the class in either department as needed

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- 2) PSYC 4324 will remain in our additional coursework menu as an elective but is no longer listed as an interdisciplinary major elective due to Psychology's intention to make this course a block elective moving forward.
- 3) PSYC 3340 Research Methods now replaces the older versions of this course (PSYC 3201 and PSYC 3101), while retaining the 3 credit hour research methodology requirement.
- 4) New courses that cover neuroscience concepts have been created since the last curriculum update. These were previously offered as seminars but are now listed with new course numbers. This includes: PSYC 3332 Neurobiology of Social Motivation, PSYC 3333 From Molecules to Behavior, and PSYC 4314 Cognitive Development.

Copy and paste the degree plan from the catalog and use track changes to indicate the proposed changes.

Degree Plan

Code	Title	Hours
University Core ^c		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 Laboratory	4
PSYC 3201 & PSYC 3101PSYC 3340	Gen Experimental Psychology and Lab for Gen Exper PsycResearch Methods	3
BIOL 2340 or PSYC 2324	Introductory Neuroscience ^c Introductory Neuroscience	3
BIOL 3192 or PSYC 3102	Professional Development Sem. Professional Development	1
BIOL 4350	Cellular Neuroscience	3
Chemistry Courses		
Required:		

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- Commented [KS1]: Psychology has replaced the older PSYC 3201 and 3101 with PSYC 3340 (Research Methods)
- Commented [KS2R1]: The credit hours required for this course remains at 3 hours (older courses were 2 and 1 credit hours respectively)
- Commented [KS3]: Course will now be offered cross listed using both course numbers.

Code	Title	Hours
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 Chem I (non-majors) and Lab for Organic Chemistry 2324	4
CHEM 3330	Biochem I:Struc & Function	3
Math Sequence		3-4
STAT 2480 or PSYC 1303	Elementary Statistical Methods Statistical Methods	
Interdisciplinary Major Electives		
Select eighteen hours from the following, nine of which must be upper division. 9 hours must be BIOL/CBCH and 9 hours must be PSYC.		18
BIOL 3314	Molecular Cell Biology	
BIOL 3320	Genetics	
BIOL 3321	Evolution	
BIOL 3330	Histology	
BIOL 4388	Mammalian Physiology	
BIOL 4300	Introduction to Bioinformatic	
BIOL 4321	Developmental Biology	
BIOL 4389	Developmental Neurobiology	
CBCH 3316	Membrane Biology	
CBCH 4414	Cellular Biochemistry	
PSYC 3320	Learning & Memory	
PSYC 3330	Sensation and Perception	
PSYC 3332	Neurobiology of Social Motivation	
PSYC 3333	From Molecules to Behavior	
PSYC 3346	Drugs, the Brain and Behavior	
PSYC 3348	Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC 4313	Physical & Cognitive Aging	
PSYC 4324 PSYC 4314	Psychobiology Cognitive Development	
PSYC 4341	Motivation & Emotion	
Additional Coursework		

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Code	Title	Hours
Select 12 hours in consultation with advisor, 6 hours must be upper division.		12
CHEM 2325 & CHEM 2125	Organic Chem II (non-majors) and Lab for Organic Chemistry 2325	
BIOL 3314 & BIOL 3115	Molecular Cell Biology and Molecular Cell Biol Laboratory	
BIOL 3320	Genetics	
BIOL 3330	Histology	
BIOL 3321	Evolution	
BIOL 4198 or BIOL 4298 or BIOL 4398	Special Problems Special Problems Special Problems	
BIOL 4320	Endocrinology	
BIOL 4324	Animal Behavior	
BIOL 4388	Mammalian Physiology	
BIOL 4389	Developmental Neurobiology	
BIOL 4395	Topics in Biology	
CBCH 3316	Membrane Biology	
CBCH 4414	Cellular Biochemistry	
MICR 2340 & MICR 2141	General Microbiology and Gen Microbiology Laboratory	
ZOOL 4181	Vertebrate Physiology Methods	
HSCI 3305	Substance Use & Society	
PHIL 3301	Philosophy of Mind	
PSYC 2310	Life Cycle Development	
PSYC 2312	Intro to Psychopathology	
PSYC 3320	Learning & Memory	
PSYC 3330	Sensation and Perception	
PSYC 3332	Neurobiology of Social Motivation	
PSYC 3333	From Molecules to Behavior	
PSYC 3346	Drugs, the Brain and Behavior	
PSYC 3347	Behavior Modification	
PSYC 3348	Cognitive Psychology	
PSYC 3350	Health Psychology	
PSYC 4310	Adolescent Development	

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Code	Title	Hours
PSYC 4312	Advanced Psychopathology	
PSYC 4313	Physical & Cognitive Aging	
PSYC 4314	Cognitive Development	
PSYC 4324	Psychobiology	
PSYC 4341	Motivation & Emotion	
WS 3390	Women's Studies:Special Topics	
9 additional credit hours (at any level) in consultation with advisor (3 hrs must be UD)		
Total Hours		120
Course List		

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Commented [KS4]: Note: removed from the above menu because it is now being listed as a block elective by the psychology department.