

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE WITH A MAJOR IN NEUROSCIENCE

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Bachelor of Science with a Major in Neuroscience in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences effective Fall term, 2019.

Background

Neuroscience will be an interdisciplinary major leading to a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree that will combine the strengths of Biological Sciences, Psychology, and other campus units to provide training in the field of neuroscience, a discipline that seeks to explain the functioning of the nervous system and how it generates complex perceptions and behaviors. The overarching goal of the major is to provide students with a solid academic background within the integrative field of neuroscience. Successful graduates of the program will develop a strong foundation that will make them competitive for post-graduate study or employment in industry, government, health, and education. This interdisciplinary program will be jointly housed in the Biological Sciences and Psychology departments.

Program Description

At its core, Neuroscience is a broad biomedical science. The curriculum we propose reflects its interdisciplinarity with strong foundations in the basic STEM sciences that are fundamental for neuroscience and includes a diverse range of elective course options that will allow students to tailor their curriculum to their own interests. Courses in this major are offered by many departments and cross college boundaries.

Admission Requirements

Consistent with other STEM disciplines on campus, admission requirements for this major are satisfied by the general requirements for undergraduate admission to the University. There is no specific course requirement that must be completed before a student may declare a major in Neuroscience.

Curriculum Requirements

Candidates must complete 120 credits in course work including satisfaction of the University General Education Requirements and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree Requirements, as well as major requirements. Major requirements include three components: fundamental basic science courses, a two-course neuroscience sequence that serves as the gateway to the major, and electives in both cellular and molecular neuroscience and cognitive neuroscience. Students are required to select courses from each category to ensure breadth across the range of the discipline.

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Graduation Requirements

All course work must be completed in accordance with the regulations of the University and the College governing undergraduate scholarship and degrees. Students must receive a grade of C-minus or better in all major courses. A grade point average of 2.0 (C) is required for graduation.

Program Administration

The Neuroscience major will be administered by a Program Director who will be advised by a 4-member Steering Committee consisting of representatives from departments that contribute courses to the major. The Director will be a represented faculty member from either the Psychology or Biological Sciences department. The Steering Committee will consist of the Program Director and 4 additional members who will be selected by the Program Director in consultation with the chairs of the Psychology or Biological Sciences departments and the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The Steering Committee will consist of one member from both the Psychology or Biological Sciences departments, with the remaining 3 members selected from other departments that contribute to the program.

Budget and Resource Requirements

This program will be supported through the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The only new costs at program launch are for the Program Director. At launch, the Neuroscience major will utilize the existing advising structures in the Biological Sciences and Psychology departments, with the advising team in Biological Sciences taking the lead in developing, organizing and implementing the advising system and strategy.

Accreditation

No accreditation review is required for the establishment of this program.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Psychology and Biological Sciences Departments, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty Council and Faculty Assembly, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the Provost.