

## **Recommendations For Undergraduates Wishing To Pursue Neuroscience**

The most straightforward curriculum for a student interested in pursuing a career in neuroscience would be the completion of the neuroscience minor. This includes courses in Biology and Psychology that will better prepare the student for any domain of neuroscience. Listed below are some courses and recommendations for students interested in preparing for graduate study in neuroscience without the minor and/or without courses in Biology.

### **Course Work:**

Students must take (7 credits):

PSY 303 – Foundations of Physiological Psychology<sup>1</sup>

BIOL 196 – Principles of Modern Biology I

Students can take (12 credits from the following):

PSY 305 – Foundations of Perception

PSY 422 – Psychopharmacology of Abused Drugs

PSY 424 – Neurobiology of Learning and Memory

PSY 425 – Cognitive Neuroscience

PSY 428 – Cellular and Molecular Approaches to Behavior

PSY 446 – Neuropsychology

BIOL 304 – Molecular Genetics

BIOL 445 – Cell Physiology

BIOL 475 – Neurobiology

KIN 465 – Neurophysiology of Movement<sup>2</sup>

For advanced students that have completed some of the above courses they may register for graduate neuroscience courses PSY 719 (Behavioral Neuroscience) and PSY 720 (Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience) with consent of the instructor.

### **Research Activity:**

It is strongly suggested that any student interested in pursuing graduate work in neuroscience work at least 1 semester (2 or more is ideal) in a neuroscience research laboratory as a research assistant. There are several investigators in the Department of Psychology conducting neuroscience research (see Department of Psychology website). We recommend that interested students email the faculty member doing research of interest to inquire about open research assistant positions. The earlier a student gets involved in research the more extensive the training will be.

### **UNLV Affiliated Groups:**

In addition to the work in the laboratory students may want to join the Neuroscience Journal Club (NJC) student organization. The group meets once per month to discuss an original research article in neuroscience. The group is composed of both undergraduate and graduate students interested/working in neuroscience. The NJC is also a means to learn about specific

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<sup>1</sup> PSY 303 is changing from “Foundations of Physiological Psychology” to “Foundations of Neuroscience” pending approval by the university curriculum committee

<sup>2</sup> The inclusion of KIN 465 is pending approval by the university curriculum committee

scientific meetings (such as the Society for Neuroscience) and can provide some support for some students to attend the annual meeting.

Participation in other programs designed to facilitate entry into graduate programs and preparation for the GRE is also recommended. This includes specific honors societies as well as programs to support undergraduate research at UNLV.

### **Careers – Minor in Neuroscience**

There is variety of career options available to individuals who focus on neuroscience as an undergraduate. Below is a list of some possible careers available to students (other careers, such as research scientist, professor, or medical professional such as a medical doctor or physician's assistant, are possible with an advanced degree). For a more thorough understanding of career possibilities and preparation, students are encouraged to take PSY 200 (Introduction to the Psychology Major) or to meet with a representative from UNLV Career Services.

Advertising or Marketing Representative

EEG Technologist

Forensic Science Technician

Health Educator

Lab Animal Care Technician

Laboratory Technician

Medical or Healthcare Manager

Medical Technician

Neuroscience Sales Specialist

Patient Care Assistant

Pharmaceutical Sales

Pharmacy Technician

Public Policy

Regulatory Affairs Specialist

Research Assistant

Residential Counselor

Sales Engineer

Science Writer