

## **Neuroscience Departmental Honors Program**

The Neuroscience Departmental Honors Program provides motivated students with a program that offers development of scientific creativity, fostering of curiosity, and opportunities to contribute to the neuroscience community. The Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology recognizes the achievements and inspiration of such students and will provide an experience in which students develop their scholarly interests and professional skills with a faculty research advisor, who will provide mentorship and scholarly collegiality, while shepherding the student's independent research.

### **Eligibility**

To be admitted into the Neuroscience Departmental Honors Program, a student must have:

1. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.4 in completed Neuroscience Core courses.
2. At least junior status in the program (i.e. 60 to 30 semester hours remaining for completion of the B.S. degree).

Students should discuss the Honors Program with the Director of the Neuroscience Program no later than the Fall semester of their junior year. They should then identify a Research Project Advisor, complete, and submit their application form. A faculty member from outside of the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology may be selected. Alongside the Research Project Advisor, a student must obtain two other neuroscience faculty members to serve on the student's Honors Committee. A student not meeting all the above requirements may petition for special permission to enter the Honors Program.

### **Academic Requirements**

In order to complete the Neuroscience Departmental Honors Program, a student must:

1. Maintain a minimum of a 3.4 GPA while enrolled within the Honors Program.
2. Submit a 3-5 page proposal of the research project, which will be due by the end of the first semester in NEU 4990, and must be approved by the Research Advisor and the Honors Committee.
3. Completion of at least 5 credits (ideally spanning at least three semesters) of research (NEU 4990) with a grade no lower than a B for these courses.
4. Completion of the Senior Capstone: Neuroscience Laboratory Research (NEU 4020).
5. Groups of students in the Honors Program will give an oral presentation of the results of the research project at a departmental Honors Program seminar, as a part of NEU 4020.
6. Completion of a 10-15 page Honors Thesis based upon the research project, which must be approved by the Research Advisor and the student's Honors Committee.

## **Evaluation and Oversight**

A student's Research Advisor will be comprised of a single faculty member, in whose laboratory the student conducts their research. Each student will also have an Honors Committee, which will be comprised of 2 other faculty members that will contribute to the review of the student's research proposal, as well as their Honors Thesis and oral presentation. At least one faculty member must be from the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology.

At the completion of each semester of NEU 4990, a semester grade will be given by the student's Research Advisor. The grade will be based on the student's quality of work, progress, contribution to laboratory activities, etc. As the Research Advisor will maintain a mentoring role to the student, it will be required that the mentor and student meet at least once a week to discuss relevant aspects of the student's work in the laboratory. A grade lower than B means the student has failed to meet the departmental honors requirement.

Near the end of NEU 4020, the Honors Thesis must be submitted for review. The Research Advisor and the Honors Committee will be responsible for reviewing and grading the quality of the Honors Thesis. The Research Advisor and the Honors Committee will also grade the oral presentation associated with NEU 4020.

## **Timeline**

A typical timeline for the Neuroscience Departmental Honors Program may look like the following:

### Junior Year (Fall)

1. Speak to the Director of the Neuroscience Program regarding interest in the honors program
2. Identify Research Advisor
3. Complete and submit Application form

### Junior Year (Spring)

1. Complete first semester of NEU 4990

\*It is encouraged that students continue their research during the Summer between their Junior and Senior years, if possible, to maintain continuity and enhance progress on their research project.

### Senior Year (Fall)

1. Complete semester of NEU 4990

### Senior Year (Spring)

1. Must have completed or be completing at least 5 credits of NEU 4990
2. Complete NEU 4020
3. Give oral presentation of research project

4. Write and submit Honors Thesis
5. Complete forms for graduation

**Form for Graduation**

There is a form on the University Honors website that must be completed to ensure that your Departmental Honors designation appears on your transcript. This form must be completed by the due date for the term of graduation, and turned in to the University Honors Program.

## Neuroscience Departmental Honors Program Application Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ UID: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation (semester/year): \_\_\_\_\_

Total credits completed for all courses: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative grade point average (GPA) for all courses: \_\_\_\_\_

Total credits completed for the Neuroscience Core: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative grade point average (GPA) for the Neuroscience Core: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Project Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of Tentative Honors Project (if needed, submit additional documentation):

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit applications to the Director of the Neuroscience Program.