NEUROSCIENCE, MINOR

Requirements for a minor may be completed at any campus location offering the specified courses for the minor. Students may not change from a campus that offers their major to a campus that does not offer their major for the purpose of completing a minor.

Program Description

The intercollege minor in neuroscience is designed for the student desiring an in-depth knowledge about the basic and functional aspects of the nervous system. Students in several disciplines ranging from nutrition to psychology to molecular biology could benefit from comprehensive study of the neurosciences in preparation for technical, professional, or research careers. The neurosciences as envisioned here are broadly based, and instruction available spans the levels of investigation from molecular to behavioral and cognitive. Majors complemented by this minor would include, but not be limited to, psychology, biology, biochemistry, nutrition, human development and family studies, genetics, biobehavioral health, kinesiology, animal and poultry science, and veterinary science.

What is Neuroscience?

Neuroscience is the scientific study of the structure and function of the nervous system. The minor at Penn State involves interdisciplinary training in neuroanatomy and circuitry, neuronal physiology, evolution and development of the nervous system, biochemistry, cellular and molecular processes, and functional neurobiology of disease and behavior.

You Might Like This Program If...

- You are curious about biological processes that support behavior and function.
- You want to understand neurobiological processes at multiple levels, from functional circuitry to molecular processes.
- You like to answer important questions by testing and understanding underlying biological processes.
- You want to pursue a career related to biology and/or health – clinician, research, technician.

Program Requirements

Requirement	Credits
Requirements for the Minor	18

Requirements for the Minor

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor, as specified by Senate Policy 59-10 (https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/59-00-minors-and-certificates/). In addition, at least six credits of the minor must be unique from the prescribed courses required by a student's major(s).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better		
BIOL 469	Neurobiology	3
BIOL 470	Functional and Integrative Neuroscience	3
PSYCH 260	Neurological Bases of Human Behavior	3
Additional Courses		
Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better		
Select 9 credits of the following:		9
BBH 410	Developmental and Health Genetics	
BBH 432	Biobehavioral Aspects of Stress	
BBH 451	Pharmacological Influences on Health	
BBH 497	Special Topics	
BIOL 472	Human Physiology	
BIOL 473	Laboratory in Mammalian Physiology	
BIOL 479	General Endocrinology	
KINES 483	Motor Patterns of Children	
KINES 484	Advanced Biomechanics	
PSYCH 462	Physiological Psychology	
PSYCH 475	Psychology of Fear and Stress	
PSYCH 478	Clinical Neuropsychology	

Academic Advising

The objectives of the university's academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee's unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

Read Senate Policy 32-00: Advising Policy (https://senate.psu.edu/students/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

University Park

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Career Paths

Students with a Minor in Neuroscience pursue a variety of careers. Many pursue health-related careers, including clinical and/or research tracks. For advanced neuroscience-specific careers (e.g. neuropsychology, neuroscience research, etc.) an advanced degree, graduate or professional, is required. The neuroscience minor provides essential training for this advanced training. Students are encouraged to engage in practical learning experiences to complement formal classroom learning, for example, volunteering in a neuroscience research laboratory.

Contact

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