

NEUROSCIENCE (HERSHEY)

Dual-Titles

Dual-Title Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Clinical and Translational Sciences

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

Admission Requirements

Potential dual-title students can express an interest in the CTS dual-title as early as during the recruitment process for the Neuroscience Graduate Program. Students must apply and be admitted to the graduate program in Neuroscience and The Graduate School before they can apply for admission to the dual-title degree program. After admission to their primary program, students must apply for admission to and meet the admission requirements of the CTS dual-title program. Refer to the Admission Requirements section of the CTS Bulletin page (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-sciences/>). Doctoral students must be admitted into the dual-title degree program in CTS prior to taking the qualifying exam in Neuroscience.

Students interested in the dual-title Ph.D. will be considered for admission to the Clinical and Translational Sciences Program by a committee consisting of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Program co-directors and faculty affiliated with the Clinical and Translational Sciences Dual-Title Program. To apply, the student must submit the following documentation to the Clinical and Translational Sciences Dual-title Program:

1. A statement of interest, including the applicant's reasons for pursuing a career that includes clinical/translational science.
2. A letter from the applicant's research adviser which endorses the applicant's participation in the Clinical and Translational Sciences dual-title program.
3. A letter of support from the head of Neuroscience. If the applicant has not yet selected a research adviser, the program head's letter should describe the program's support of the applicant's desire to incorporate clinical/translational research in the applicant's training plans.
4. A description of the applicant's academic performance to date.

Degree Requirements

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the degree requirements for the degree they are enrolled in Neuroscience. In addition, students must complete the degree requirements for the dual-title in CTS, listed on the CTS Bulletin page (<http://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/clinical-translational-sciences/>). Up to 7 credits of course work may be used to satisfy both Neuroscience and CTS degree requirements. In addition, a student may request to double count additional credits up to a maximum of 12. An increase in double-counted credits will be determined by the CTS Program on a case-by-case basis.

Neuroscience graduate students accepted to the Clinical and Translational Sciences Dual-Title Program will take the qualifying exam by the end of the fourth semester of the graduate program:

1. to allow exposure to the Clinical and Translational Sciences curriculum in the Spring semester of the first year and Fall semester

- of the second year, which will prepare the students for the integrated content of the dual-title qualifying exam, and
2. to allow sufficient time to identify and assure commitment of an appropriate dissertation adviser who embraces the dual-title program of the student.

During the qualifying examination, the student will also be assessed for the dual-title program, and at least one member of the qualifying exam committee must come from the dual-title program. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role.

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/>), the Ph.D. committee of a Neuroscience and Clinical and Translational Sciences dual-title doctoral degree student must include at least one member of the Clinical and Translational Sciences Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in CTS, the member of the committee representing CTS must be appointed as co-chair. The CTS representative on the student's Ph.D. committee will develop questions for and participate in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination.

Students enrolled in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that is approved in advance by their Ph.D. committee and reflects their original research and expertise in both Neuroscience and Clinical and Translational Sciences. Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the head of the graduate program, and the Graduate School.