

Behavioral Neuroscience

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Major Course Requirements

Course Requirements for the PhD in Behavioral Neuroscience (BN)

Majors:

PSCH 484 Neuroscience 1

PSCH 485 Neuroscience 2

PSCH 483 Neuroanatomy

PSCH 569 Current Topics in BN (at least 6 semesters)

Plus *two* elective courses from:

PSCH 560 Advanced Learning

PSCH 562 Neural Basis of Learning and Memory

PSCH 565 Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience

PSCH 566 Neural Basis of Motivation

PSCH 568 Seminar in Behavioral Neuroscience

Requirements for students whose research involves animals:

Graduate College 470: Essentials for Animal Research

They also must be named as personnel on an approved ACC protocol

Preliminary Examination Requirements

A subcommittee will be formed comprising five members of faculty (the candidate's Advisor will normally chair the subcommittee). Once the subcommittee chair informs the Graduate Coordinator that the Committee has been appointed and who the members are, the candidate will complete a **Committee Recommendation Form**.

Prior to the Examination, the Committee Chair will get a copy of the **Examination Report to the Graduate College** from the Graduate Coordinator. At the end of the Examination, the Committee Chair will inform the candidate of the outcome, committee members will sign the Examination Report providing and grade of "pass/fail," and the Committee Chair will forward the Report immediately to the Graduate Coordinator.

The preliminary examination will be an oral exam in which the candidate answers five questions, given in advance, with the expectation for additional relevant follow-up questioning during the examination. Approximately ten weeks before the preliminary examination date, each committee member submits two-three questions to the committee chair. The committee will select five questions from those submitted and the chair of the committee will forward the selected questions to the candidate eight weeks before the targeted date. The candidate will prepare thorough answers to the questions, with the goal of presenting for about 20-30 minutes per question. Because it is an oral examination, the candidate should not use any kind of prepared materials (i.e. written presentation, PowerPoint) but should feel free to use a whiteboard/chalkboard to illustrate information as appropriate. The candidate should expect follow-up questions during the presentation (e.g. clarification, connections between concepts, how might other techniques bear on question, what are current/emerging issues and how to address them?). To obtain a pass, the candidate is expected to be able to coherently present answers to all five questions (plus associated follow-up questions), answers that show in-depth understanding of the material and critical thought about the scientific process.

If the subcommittee does not unanimously agree to pass the candidate, it will decide whether and under what conditions a further examination (of whatever nature) might be offered. A second examination may be permitted. However, according to Graduate College rules, a third examination is not allowed.

Requirement Checklist

I. General Departmental Requirements

- Advisor-approved MA Proposal
- Approval of Proposed Minor
- Committee-approved MA Proposal
- Committee-approved MA Thesis
- Graduate College--Approved MA Degree
- Preliminary Examination Proposal
- Committee-approved Preliminary Examination
- Graduate College--Admission to Candidacy
- Committee-approved PhD Proposal
- Committee-approved PhD Dissertation
- Major Program Requirements
- Two semesters 50% TA (or equivalent) and TA orientation class
- Graduate College--Approved PhD Degree

II. Department Course Requirements

- PSCH 507 Emerging Research Issues (1 hour fall, 1 hour spring)
- PSCH 508 Colloquium on Teaching Psychology (1 hour, fall)
- PSCH 541 Introduction to Computing in Psychology (1 hour, spring)
- PSCH 543 Research Design and Analysis (4 hours, fall)
- PSCH 545 Multivariate Analysis (3 hours, spring)
- PSCH 591 Research Apprenticeship (2 hours, fall)
- PSCH 591 Research Apprenticeship (2 hours, spring)
- PSCH 598 Thesis Research (3 hours, fall)
- PSCH 598 Thesis Research (3 hours, spring)
- PSCH 599 Dissertation Research (12 hours)
- Students must complete 32 semester hours of course work for the MA
- Students must complete 96 semester hours of course work for the PhD

III. Major Area Course Requirements

- PSCH 484 Neuroscience 1
- PSCH 485 Neuroscience 2
- PSCH 483 Neuroanatomy
- PSCH 569 Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag--6 semesters)

Two elective courses from:

- PSCH 560 Advanced Learning

- ___ PSCH 562 Neural Basis of Learning and Memory
- ___ PSCH 565 Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience
- ___ PSCH 566 Neural Basis of Motivation
- ___ PSCH 568 Seminar in Behavioral Neuroscience

Requirement for students whose research involves animals:

- ___ Graduate College 470: Essential for Animal Research

IV. Minor Option (Specify area, course #, and course work if completing)

___ Area: _____

___ Course #1: _____

___ Course #2: _____

___ Course #3: _____

or ___ Brown Bag (2 semester): _____

Sample 4-Year Course Schedule

Year 1--Fall Semester

Department	507	Emerging Research Issues	1
	508	Colloquium on the Teaching of Psychology	1
	543	Research and Design Analysis	4
	591	Research Apprenticeship	2
Major	484	Neuroscience 1	3
	569	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
	GC 470	Essentials for Animal Research	1
		TOTAL	13

Year 1--Spring Semester

Department	507	Emerging Research Issues	1
	541	Introduction to Computing in Psychology	1
	545	Multivariate Analysis	3
	591	Research Apprenticeship	4
Major	485	Neuroscience 2	3
	569	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
		TOTAL	13

Year 2--Fall Semester

Department	598	Thesis Research	5
Major	5--	Elective	3
	569	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
Minor	LST**	Minor Course (If completing)	3
		TOTAL	12

Year 2--Spring Semester

Department	598	Thesis Research	4
Major	483	Neuroanatomy	4
	569	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
Minor	LST**	Minor Course (If completing)	3
		TOTAL	12

Year 3--Fall Semester

Department	596	Independent Study (Prelim)	5
Major	5--	Elective	3
	569	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
Minor	LST**	Minor Course (If completing)	3
		TOTAL	12

Year 3--Spring Semester

Department	596	Independent Study (Prelim)	8
	569	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
		TOTAL	12

Year 4--Fall Semester

Major	599	Dissertation Research	12
	569*	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
		TOTAL	13

Year 4--Spring Semester

Department	599	Dissertation Research	12
Major	569*	Current Topics in BN (Brown Bag)	1
		TOTAL	13

** Course is from a list of elective courses from which the student may choose.