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WELLESLEY COLLEGE
NEUROSCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Updated 3.6.20
What is neuroscience?

Neuroscience explores how the brain and nervous system function to generate behavior, emotion and cognition. Neuroscience is highly interdisciplinary, integrating biology, psychology, chemistry, physics and computer science. Exploring the complexity of the nervous system requires analyses at multiple levels. Neuroscientists investigate how genes and molecules regulate nerve cell function (cellular/molecular neuroscience), explore how neural systems produce integrated behaviors (behavioral neuroscience), seek to understand how neural substrates create mental processes and thought (cognitive neuroscience) and use mathematics and computer models to comprehend brain function (computational neuroscience). In studying how the brain and nervous system function normally, neuroscientists also hope to better understand devastating neurological and psychiatric disorders.

Research in neuroscience

All of the neuroscience faculty are actively engaged in laboratory research, and we encourage students to become involved in research as early as possible in their time at Wellesley. Information about specific faculty research projects is found on the neuroscience website. The research endeavor is supported by modern instrumentation such as a laser confocal microscope, an MRI for small animal imaging, and a suite of instruments for genomic and proteomic analyses.

The major in Neuroscience offers three areas of concentration:

- cellular and molecular neuroscience
- cognitive neuroscience
- systems and computational neuroscience

See the neuroscience website or the Wellesley course catalogue for additional information about specific courses.

The Neuroscience Major

Core Courses
- NEUR 100 + P (recommended taking during first three semesters at Wellesley)
- NEUR 200 + L
- NEUR 300 (required fall of senior year)
- BISC 110, 110P, 112, 112Y + L, or BISC 116 + L
- PSYC 205 or STAT 218

200-Level Electives*
(choose 3 courses from at least 2 of 3 groupings)
*Note: Additional prerequisites may be needed

Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
- BISC 219 + L
- BISC 220 + L
- BISC 211 + L
- CHEM 223 + L (CHEM 222)
- CHEM 227 (CHEM 220)

Cognitive Neuroscience
- PHIL 215
- PSYC 214 (Class of ’20 or before only)
- PSYC 215
- PSYC 216
- PSYC 217
- PSYC 218

Systems and Computational Neuroscience
- CS 232
- MATH 215
- PHYS 210 (Class of ’23 or before)
- PHYS 216
- QR/STAT 260

300-Level Electives*
(choose 3 courses from at least 2 of 3 groupings; at least one lab course)
*Note: Additional prerequisites may be needed

Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
- BISC 302 + L
- NEUR 305 + L
- NEUR/BISC 306
- NEUR/BISC 315 + L
- NEUR 332

Cognitive Neuroscience
- PSYC 316
- PSYC 317
- PSYC 319
- PSYC 321 (Class of ’21 or before only)
- PSYC 328
- PSYC 314R + L, 315R + L (PSYC 295 required for PSYC 314R and 315R)

Systems and Computational Neuroscience
- CS 305
- CS 332
- NEUR 310, 310 + L
- NEUR 320 + L
- NEUR 325 + L
- NEUR 335 + L