NEUROSCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR

Overview and Contact Information
The program in neuroscience and behavior is intended for students with strong, integrative interests in both biological sciences and psychology and in the biological bases of behavior.

See Also
- Cognitive Neuroscience (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/cognitive-neuroscience/)

Contact Information
Kenneth Colodner, Chair
Dianne Baranowski, Academic Department Coordinator
105 Clapp Laboratory
413-538-2611
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/neuroscience-and-behavior (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/neuroscience-and-behavior/)

Learning Goals
1. Components of the Nervous System
Learn the underlying developmental, physiological, anatomical, and functional components of the nervous system, including an understanding of their evolutionary origins, and link the electrochemical behavior of nerve cells and synapses, sensorimotor processes, and circuit-level processes to cognitive and behavioral outcomes.

2. Biological and Chemical Foundations
Understand the fundamental molecular, chemical, genetic, and cellular components of the natural world and practice basic biology and chemistry laboratory techniques for measuring these phenomena.

3. Research Design and Data Analysis
Develop experimental design, quantitative reasoning, and technical skills to ethically design, implement, analyze, and communicate original research questions in the natural and behavioral sciences.

4. Experimentation and Evaluation of Primary Literature
Analyze and critique primary literature leading to the construction of novel hypotheses, and design relevant laboratory-based and field experiments using various neuroscience-specific techniques.

5. Becoming a Citizen Scientist
Develop communication and collaboration skills aimed at becoming an ethically responsible and inclusive member of the scientific community. This includes cultivating effective communication skills in oral, written, and visual formats, in addition to working to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in group settings.

Faculty
This area of study is administered by the Neuroscience and Behavior Committee:
Katherine Binder, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Psychology, Teaching Spring Only
Mara Breen, Professor of Psychology and Education
Gary Gillis, Norman Wait Harris and Emma Gale Harris Foundation Professor of Biological Sciences
Kenneth Colodner, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Behavior
Kathryn McMenimen, Associate Professor of Chemistry
Jared Schwartzter, Associate Professor of Psychology and Education; Director of the Science Center
Travis Hodges, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Marta Sabariego, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience and Behavior
André White, Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences

Requirements for the Major
A minimum of 48 credits:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEURO-100</td>
<td>Introduction to Neuroscience and Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM-150</td>
<td>General Chemistry: Foundations</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or CHEM-160</td>
<td>Integrated Introduction to Biology and Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM-202</td>
<td>Organic Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEURO-221</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Neuroscience</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYCH-204</td>
<td>Research Methods in Psychology</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEURO-246</td>
<td>Cognitive Neuroscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>or NEURO-254</td>
<td>Psychopharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>or NEURO-256</td>
<td>Hormones and Behavior</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL-200</td>
<td>Introductory Biology II: How Organisms Develop</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL-210</td>
<td>Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOL-220</td>
<td>Cell Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL-311</td>
<td>Protein Biochemistry and Cellular Metabolism (with BIOL-318 lab)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL-307</td>
<td>Vertebrate Anatomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL-321AD</td>
<td>Conference Course: 'Substance Use Disorder: Addiction and Drug Memory Formation'</td>
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<td>BIOL-333</td>
<td>Neurobiology</td>
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<td>Human Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMSC-334</td>
<td>Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMSC-341NL</td>
<td>Topics: 'Natural Language Processing'</td>
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An appropriate prerequisite to qualify for the quantitative inference course
A course in quantitative inference:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYCH-201</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>or STAT-242</td>
<td>Intermediate Statistics</td>
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Two of the following laboratory-based courses at the 300 level: 8

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NEURO-324 Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience
NEURO-336 Systems Neuroscience
NEURO-395 Independent Study (4 credits)
PSYCH-350BN Lab in Biological Bases of Behavior: 'Laboratory in Behavioral Neuroscience'
PSYCH-350ET Lab in Biological Bases of Behavior: 'Ethology'
PSYCH-340CL Laboratory in Perception and Cognition: 'Cognition and Literacy'

A third 300-level course from the preceding list, or from the following: 4
CHEM-312 Chemistry of Biomolecules
NEURO-309SE Topics in Neuroscience and Behavior: 'Philosophy and Science of Emotion'
NEURO-331 Gial Cells in Health and Disease
NEURO-338 Mobilizing the Hippocampus
PSYCH-349AM Seminar in Perception and Cognition: 'Art, Music, and the Brain'
PSYCH-349LT Seminar in Perception and Cognition: 'Language and Thought'
PSYCH-359CN Seminar: Biological Bases of Behavior: 'Clinical Neuroscience'

Total Credits: 48

Other Requirements

- The three required courses at the 300 level must span at least two departments or programs.

Additional Specifications

- Students planning postgraduate study in a related discipline or in medicine are urged to participate in independent laboratory research within either or both departments.
- Students who declare a neuroscience and behavior major automatically fulfill the College's "outside the major" requirement.

Course Offerings

NEURO-100 Introduction to Neuroscience and Behavior

Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This comprehensive survey course explores the brain and the biological basis of behavior. We will examine the anatomy of the nervous system and the unique properties of the cells that make up the brain. We will discuss the mechanisms by which individual brain cells communicate with each other, and how networks of cells underlie more complex processes such as perception, learning, memory, and behavior.
Applies to requirement(s): Math Sciences
K. Colodner, M. Sabarejo
Restrictions: This course is limited to first-years and sophomores.
Coreq: NEURO-100L.

NEURO-221 Research Techniques in Neuroscience

Spring. Credits: 4
This course will introduce students to modern techniques utilized in neuroscience research. Students will learn the underlying principles of an array of techniques spanning the fields of cellular/molecular, behavioral, and cognitive neuroscience. In lab, students will perform experiments that demonstrate these skills firsthand. Emphasis will be placed on the tools necessary to implement these studies, proper experimental design, and the critical interpretation of generated data.
Applies to requirement(s): Math Sciences
K. Colodner
Restrictions: This course is offered to neuroscience majors only.; Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors
Prereq: NEURO-100. Coreq: NEURO-221L.

NEURO-246 Cognitive Neuroscience

Fall. Credits: 4
Cognitive psychologists investigate the features and functions of the human mind through behavioral techniques; neuroscientists explore the physiology of the human brain. Cognitive Neuroscience lies at the intersection of these disciplines, and asks questions like: How are memories represented in the brain? Is our brain pre-prepared to learn language and if so, how? How does the average human brain still outperform most face recognition software? This course explores the cognitive and neural processes that support vision, attention, language, memory, and music. It introduces basic neuroanatomy, functional imaging techniques, and behavioral measures of cognition.
Crosslisted as: PSYCH-246
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
M. Breen
Prereq: PSYCH-100, NEURO-100, or AP Psychology.
Notes: This course counts in the cognitive or biol bases area of the psychology major.

NEURO-254 Psychopharmacology

Spring. Credits: 4
Psychopharmacology focuses on the impact that drugs (both illicit and prescription) have on the brain, neurocircuitry, and behavior. Students will explore the underlying neurotransmitter systems of the brain and discover how substances influence nervous system function including the experience of pain, sleep, emotional states, motivation, addiction, and mental health. The course will bridge concepts in chemistry, biology, psychology, and neuroscience by highlighting major drug classes and their underlying mechanisms of action. Additional discussions will focus on the economic, social, and political aspects of the drug market, as well as ethics and legalities of the drug industry.
Crosslisted as: PSYCH-254
Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
J. Schwartzer
Prereq: PSYCH-100, NEURO-100, or AP Psychology.
NEURO-256 Hormones and Behavior
*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Does the idea of Finals Week stress you out? Have you ever felt hungry or thirsty? Is our biology to blame when people cheat on their partners? From mental health and hunger to sexual motivation and aggression, our hormones dictate many of our basic choices and ultimately control how we interact with our world. This course will explore how hormones communicate with our brain to influence behaviors such as sexual attraction and reproduction, parental care, and social behavior. Special emphasis will be placed on the underlying biology and role of the nervous system in regulating hormone levels.

*Crosslisted as: PSYCH-256*

 Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences
T. Hodges

Prereq: PSYCH-100, NEURO-100, or AP Psychology.

**NEURO-295 Independent Study**
*Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4*

The department

Instructor permission required.

**NEURO-309 Topics in Neuroscience and Behavior**

**NEURO-309NE Topics in Neuroscience and Behavior: 'Philosophy and Science of Emotion'**
*Spring. Credits: 4*

Philosophy and science of emotion examines the role of emotions in our personal, social, and ethical lives. This class will look at the relational perspective of emotions and how they play a role in our personal and social lives. We will examine how emotions are connected to our thoughts and actions, and how they influence our decision-making and behavior. Through a range of readings and discussion, we will explore the biological, psychological, and social dimensions of emotions, and how they shape our interactions with others.

*Crosslisted as: PHIL-334NE, PSYCH-359NE*

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
L. Sizer

Prereq: 8 credits from the Philosophy department or 4 credits from Philosophy and 4 credits from Neuroscience and Behavior.

**NEURO-309SE Topics in Neuroscience and Behavior: 'Neuroethics'**

This course will explore the ethical implications of neuroscience research, focusing on topics such as free will, consciousness, and the limits of our understanding. We will examine the role of neuroscience in shaping our views on human nature, and consider how advances in neuroimaging technologies are changing our understanding of the mind.

*Crosslisted as: NEURO-338 Mobilizing the Hippocampus*

 Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
M. Sabariego

Prereq: NEURO-324 or BIOL-230.

**NEURO-324 Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience**
*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course will explore cellular and molecular mechanisms of nervous system development and function through lectures, laboratory exercises, and the critical analysis of primary literature. Topics include synapse formation and synaptic transmission, neuronal-glial interactions, the molecular basis of behavior, and applied genetic engineering techniques.

*Applies to requirement(s): Math Sciences*
K. Colodner

Prereq: NEURO-221 or BIOL-230.

Notes: This course meets the 300-level laboratory-based course requirement for the Neuroscience and Behavior major.

**NEURO-331 Glial Cells in Health and Disease**
*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course will explore the "other" cells in your brain, the glial cells. While neuronal cells receive most of the attention, glial cells are now recognized as essential players in normal brain physiology. Through the critical analysis of primary literature, we will highlight recent advances in glial cell biology and discuss how the various glial cell subtypes (astrocytes, microglia, myelinating cells, etc.) contribute to the healthy and diseased brain. We will examine the glial contribution to a variety of disorders (e.g. multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injury, neurodegenerative diseases, etc.) and we will cultivate a better understanding of these often overlooked brain cells.

*Applies to requirement(s): Math Sciences*
K. Colodner

Restrictions: This course is offered to neuroscience majors only.

Prereq: NEURO-100 and BIOL-230.

**NEURO-336 Systems Neuroscience**
*Fall. Credits: 4*

This course will cover the functioning of neural circuits in the brain and how they give rise to cognition and behavior. Using primary literature and activities, students will delve into current topics in systems neuroscience. Labs will provide exposure and training in common neuroscience techniques, practice in thinking like a scientist, and an appreciation for how basic research can lead to major advances in the treatment of disease.

*Applies to requirement(s): Math Sciences*
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
M. Sabariego

Restrictions: This course is offered to neuroscience majors only.

Prereq: NEURO-100 and PSYCH-204. Coreq: NEURO-336L.

Notes: Open to Neuroscience majors only for the first week of pre-registration; open to Psychology and Biology majors after the first week.

**NEURO-338 Mobilizing the Hippocampus**
*Spring. Credits: 4*

This course will provide a research site to investigate the functions of the hippocampal brain region to then embody that learning through choreographic structures. In particular, students will use dance expression to aid the understanding of complex neuroscience topics, and apply neuroscience knowledge to deepen creative expression. "Mobilizing the hippocampus" will help to bridge a gap between science and art, serving as a tool to stimulate a heightened understanding of both disciplines.

*Crosslisted as: DANCE-338*

 Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement
B. Diewald, M. Sabariego

Restrictions: This course is open to juniors and seniors; This course is limited to Dance and Neuroscience majors.
NEURO-341 Advances in Neuroscience
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Neuroscience is a rapidly changing field. This seminar will prepare
students for the next generation of neuroscience while also providing
the foundation for important principles that have guided the field during
the last few decades. In particular, using primary literature to guide
the discussion, this class will examine topical subjects of modern
neuroscience that are shaping our understanding of how the brain works.
Applies to requirement(s): Math Sciences
K. Colodner
Restrictions: This course is offered to neuroscience majors only.
Prereq: BIOL-230 and PSYCH-204.

NEURO-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.