Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 01/28/21 2:24 pm

Viewing: **SC-PHD-NEUR : Neuroscience, PhD**

Last approved: 03/03/20 8:49 am

Last edit: 02/02/21 10:56 am

Changes proposed by: gscott21

Catalog Pages Using this Program

Neuroscience, PhD

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

Name	Extension	Email
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Effective Catalog: 2021-2022

Program Level: Graduate

Program Type: Doctoral

Degree Type: Doctor of Philosophy

Title: Neuroscience, PhD

Banner Title: Neuroscience, PhD

Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Status	Approved
Registrar's Office Use Only – Program Start Term	
Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SCHEV Letter	
Registrar/OAPI Use Only – SACSCOC Status	
Concentration(s):	
Registrar/IRR Use Only – Concentration CIP Code	
College/School:	College of Science
Department / Academic Unit:	Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program
Jointly Owned Program?	No
Justification	Updating information pertaining to GRE score for admissions and the dissertation committee composition. IPN faculty voted in Feb 2020 to waive the GRE requirement for students holding an MA/MS from an accredited US institution. IPN faculty voted in January 2021 to reduce the number of required committee members to 3, one member must be from outside from the neuroscience program at Mason.
Total Credits Required:	Total credits: 72
Registrar's Office Use Only - Program Code:	SC-PHD-NEUR
Registrar/IRR Use Only – Program CIP Code	
Admission Requirements:	

Admissions

University-wide admissions policies can be found in the Graduate Admissions Policies section of this catalog.

To apply for this program, please complete the George Mason University Admissions Application.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in a relevant field and undergraduate courses in organic chemistry, cell biology, and calculus. Coursework in biochemistry (e.g. BIOL 483 General Biochemistry), cell biology (e.g. BIOL 484 Cell Signaling and Disease), and molecular genetics (e.g. BIOL 482 Introduction to Molecular Genetics) is highly recommended. Admission

requires a minimum GPA of 3.25 in undergraduate work and acceptable GRE **scores. The GRE exam is waived if applicants hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. ~~scores.~~ university at the time of their application.** In addition, the applicant's goal statement should relate to the research interests of at least one faculty member in the program and include the names of two faculty members who may be suitable as advisors or supervisory committee members.

To apply, complete the [George Mason University Admissions Application](#), supply a goal statement, two copies of official transcripts from each college and graduate institution attended, three letters of recommendation from faculty members or individuals who have firsthand knowledge of the applicant's academic or research capabilities, and an official report of scores obtained on the GRE-GEN. The GRE-SUB is optional. TOEFL scores are required of all international applicants.

Program-Specific Policies:

Policies

For policies governing all graduate programs, see [AP.6 Graduate Policies](#).

Reduction of Credits

For students entering the doctoral program with a master's degree in a related field from a regionally accredited institution, the number of required credits may be reduced up to 30 credits, subject to approval of the program faculty and the college's associate dean for student affairs. See [AP.6.5.2 Reduction of Credits](#) for more information.

Transfer of Credit

An alternative to the reduction of credit is a transfer of credit. With this option, up to 24 credits of previous, relevant graduate coursework may be transferred into the program, provided those credits have not been applied toward a previous degree.

Degree Requirements:

Students should refer to the [Admissions & Policies](#) tab for specific policies related to this program.

Doctoral Coursework

Core Science

[NEUR 702](#)	Research Methods	3
Select one statistics course from the following:		3-4
[ECE 528](#)	Introduction to Random Processes in Electrical and Computer Engineering	
[PSYC 611](#)	Advanced Statistics	
[STAT 535](#)	Analysis of Experimental Data	
[STAT 544](#)	Applied Probability	
[STAT 554](#)	Applied Statistics I	

Core Neuroscience

[NEUR 601](#)	Developmental Neuroscience	3
[NEUR 602](#)	Cellular Neuroscience	3
[NEUR 603](#)	Mammalian Neuroanatomy	3
[NEUR 701](#)	Neuroscience Laboratory	3

Rotations and Readings   9

[NEUR 703](#)	Laboratory Rotation and Readings (This course will be taken three times)

Electives

Select 20-21 credits of electives	20-21

Elective course options for students interested in attaining professional skills include:

COS 600   Multidisciplinary Problem Solving and Leadership

Complete the Business Fundamentals Graduate Certificate and receive both the graduate certificate and the Neuroscience PhD upon completion of both programs' requirements.

Total Credits	47-49

Publication

An additional requirement for graduation calls for students to have at least one publication (in print or in press) in a refereed journal.

Doctoral Committee and Proposal

When coursework is nearing completion, the student should form a doctoral committee **of at least three graduate faculty members** and start preparing their dissertation proposal. Students in consultation with their advisor identify which faculty are appropriate to be a part of their committee. The dissertation committee administers the qualifying exam and evaluates the dissertation proposal as well as the dissertation itself. At least one of the committee members must be outside of the dissertation advisor's department.

Candidacy Examination and Advancement to Candidacy

The doctoral candidacy examination includes written and oral components. After passing the candidacy exam and receiving committee approval for the dissertation proposal, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy.

Dissertation Research

Note: No more than 24 combined credits from NEUR 998 Dissertation Proposal and NEUR 999 Doctoral Dissertation may be applied toward satisfying doctoral degree requirements, with no more than 12 credits of NEUR 998 Dissertation Proposal.

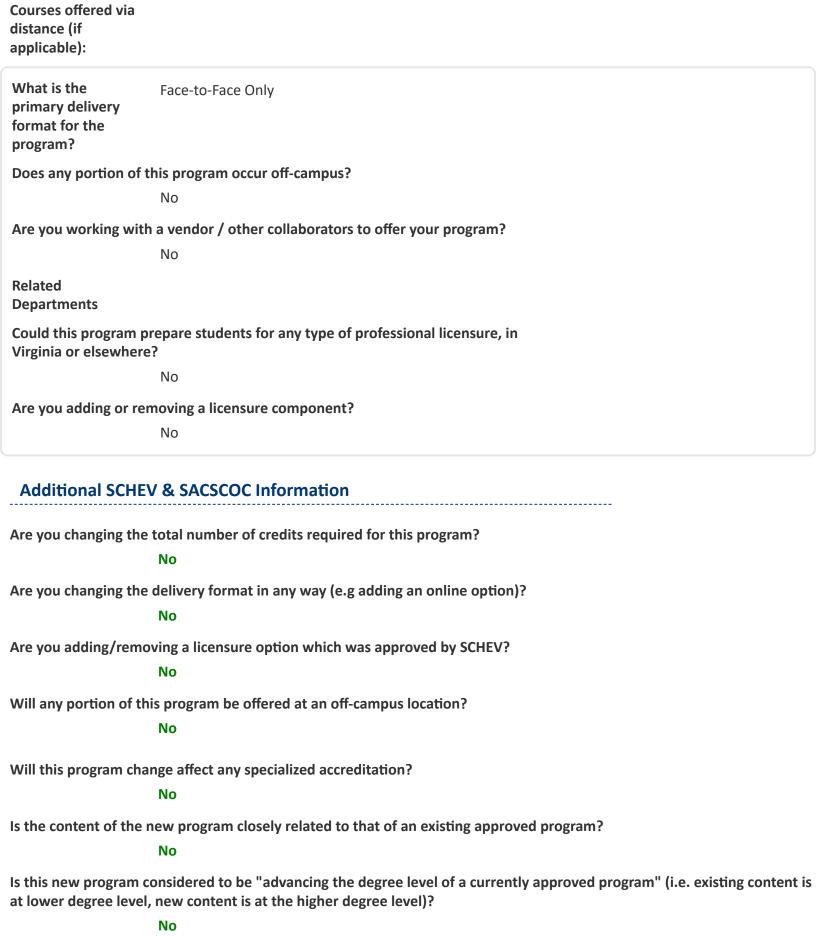|		
Select 24 credits from the following:		24
NEUR 998	Dissertation Proposal	
NEUR 999	Doctoral Dissertation	
Total Credits		24

Retroactive Requirements Updates:

Plan of Study:

Program Outcomes

Additional Program Information

This information is required by the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

Courses offered via distance (if applicable):

What is the primary delivery format for the program?

Face-to-Face Only

Does any portion of this program occur off-campus?

No

Are you working with a vendor / other collaborators to offer your program?

No

Related Departments

Could this program prepare students for any type of professional licensure, in Virginia or elsewhere?

No

Are you adding or removing a licensure component?

No

Additional SCHEV & SACSCOC Information

Are you changing the total number of credits required for this program?

No

Are you changing the delivery format in any way (e.g adding an online option)?

No

Are you adding/removing a licensure option which was approved by SCHEV?

No

Will any portion of this program be offered at an off-campus location?

No

Will this program change affect any specialized accreditation?

No

Is the content of the new program closely related to that of an existing approved program?

No

Is this new program considered to be "advancing the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at lower degree level, new content is at the higher degree level)?

No

Is this new program considered to be "lowering the degree level of a currently approved program" (i.e. existing content is at higher degree level, new content is at the lower degree level)?

No

Does this change represent a repackaging of content in an existing approved degree/certificate program?

No

Percentage of total credits containing new course content, excluding gen ed courses for undergraduate programs. ("New content" means content that is not currently included in an existing approved degree/certificate program.) Please choose a percentage (i.e. 0%-100%)

less than 25%

Are the total credits for the program increasing or decreasing by more than 3 credits?

No

Will any additional equipment/facilites be needed?

No

Will any additional faculty be required?

No

Will any additional financial resources be needed?

No

Will any additional library/learning resources needed?

No

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Green Leaf Program Designation

Is this a Green Leaf program?   No

Does this program cover material which crosses into another department?

No

Additional Attachments

SCHEV Proposal

Executive Summary

Reviewer Comments

Additional Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

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