

Which physics?

Neuroscience is a useful major if you are planning to pursue graduate study or a research career within biology, behavioral ecology, behavioral medicine, ethology, neurobiology, neuroscience, psychology or psychobiology. Careers in these science-based fields require a good grasp of fundamental sciences. If you are pursuing (or considering) one of these fields, Dr. George Alexandrakas, Chairman of Physics, recommends that you take the calculus based University Physics sequence (PHY 205, 206, and 207 and their accompanying labs, PHY 208 and 209).

Neuroscience is also a popular major for pre-med students and the curriculum includes most of the courses recommended for the MCAT and required for admittance to medical school. Although many medical schools require calculus, some do not. Careful curriculum planning will help you make this decision. Although some of the deliberation on this topic may be done in your FACT sections, experience will tell you if this is the path for you. Remember, if you still have questions, advisors are available on the Fifth floor of Flipse. Pre-med students will also want to check with Ms. Debra Paris, premed advisor.

FACT FORUM

The Psychology Department's award winning first-year program known as Freshman Advising Contact Term and Faculty Overview of Research and Undergraduate Mentoring is entering its fifth year. Although originally designed for Psychology majors, the program has proved equally effective and enjoyable to Neuroscience majors. The unique structure of the program provides all first semester students with a comprehensive orientation and advising program. In FACT you will not only learn to negotiate the University system, but you will understand policies and procedures, and explore opportunities that will help you make the most of your college experience. The small group setting helps you to establish relationships with administrators as well as other students. Although FACT is listed as FEX 101, the curriculum is quite different from general FEX courses, and includes advising.

The second semester is spent with a faculty member whose research area is of interest to you. Each FORUM section is conducted according to the interests and teaching style of the faculty member. Not only will you be able to learn about his or her research, you will learn about research in general, and other research opportunities conducted here at UM. An added benefit to the FORUM sections is that advisors will come into your sections to do advising so that you don't have to worry about appointments or long lines.

Announcing the re-establishment of TUNS The Undergraduate Neuroscience Society

Thanks to the efforts of recent graduate, Caroline Caperton, The Undergraduate Neuroscience Society is up and running again after a brief hiatus in activity. President Stephanie Halpin and her fellow officers have a lot of great things planned for the upcoming semester. There will be opportunities to participate in volunteer activities, research opportunities, and discussions of new trends in neuroscience. Additionally, selected faculty will be giving lectures on their research.

Membership in TUNS is a great way to find out about neuroscience in general, and about research going on right here at UM. All Neuroscience, Biology, Psychology, and other interested students are encouraged to join the group. Interacting with other students helps you to establish a network of resources.

Faculty supervisor Dr. Jon Lu and Neuroscience program Director Dr. Phil McCabe will be available to lend a hand to the the new officers as they plan their program and attempt to secure top-notch speakers.

For more information contact s.halpin@umiami.edu.

President	Stephanie Halpin	Senior	Psychology major
Vice President	Denise Nunes	Junior	Psychology and Philosophy majors
Secretary	Vinod Suresh	Junior	Psychobiology major
Treasurer	Aarti Patel	Senior	Neuroscience (Psychobiology track)

NEURO NOTES

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New Director for the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program



Dr. Philip McCabe has been appointed as the new Director of the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program, replacing Dr. David Wilson who did a great job as Director for the first two years of the program. Dr. McCabe is a Professor of Psychology and the Associate Chairman of the Psychology Department. He is also a member of the University wide Neuroscience Ph.D. program and a Steering Committee member for the Neuroscience Center. Dr. McCabe received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Illinois and has been at UM since 1982. His area of research is in the neurobiology of emotional behavior, and how the brain's control of emotional behavior influences the progression of cardiovascular disease. Dr. McCabe teaches PSY 402 (Psychobiology) each Spring (at 8:a.m.) and Cognitive Neuroscience and Neuroanatomy at the graduate level. An avid sports fan, he closely follows the Canes in all sports. He is also particularly fond of his beloved Chicago Bears and Cubs. Dr. McCabe is married (Sylvia) and has two grown sons, Andrew and P. J.

As Director of the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program, Dr. McCabe will oversee one of the most popular and elite majors at UM. As of this Fall, there are approximately 150 students in the Neuroscience major. With the support of Dean Wyche, Dr. McCabe has established an Undergraduate Neuroscience Office on the fifth floor of Flipse. The office will be near Undergraduate Academic Services for Psychology, directed by Dr. Noriega and staffed by Advisor Jose Rodriguez and the Peer Advisors. Additionally, graduate student Blake Scanlon, a former psychobiology student here at UM will be on hand to help with advising and other aspects of the program.

Be on the look out for an undergraduate Neuroscience seminar series that Dr. McCabe is planning. The series will bring distinguished Neuroscience researchers to the Coral Gables campus to present their work and interact with Neuroscience majors. You will also want to be sure that you make time to attend Neuroscience Day, an event featuring graduate student and faculty neuroscience research. Attending this event is a great way to become familiar with some of the cutting edge research that is going on here at UM, and get to talk to some of the individuals who are producing it.

NEUROSCIENCE CURRICULUM 411

BIL 368 (Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience) will be taught this Fall by Dr. John Bethea and Dr. Gene Roberts, from the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis and the Department of Neurology, respectively.

BIL 355 to substitute for BIL 468 Students who had planned to take BIL 468 (Developmental Neuroscience) in the Spring, should take BIL 355 (Developmental Biology) instead. The first half of this course will be taught by Dr. Mary Lou King from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. She will cover general aspects of developmental biology. The second half of the course will be team taught by Drs. John Bixby and Vance Lemmon, and will cover developmental neurobiology. Dr. Bixby is the Director of the Neuroscience Ph.D. Program and Dr. Lemmon holds the newly created Ross Chair in Developmental Neuroscience.

PSY/BIL 403 (Laboratory in Neuroscience) Dr. Ed Green will serve as coordinator for this course, also held in the Spring. Joining him will be Dr. Ken Muller, from the Department of Physiology, who will teach intracellular neuronal recording. The other part of the teaching team will be Dr. Bethea, who will teach molecular neurobiology techniques in his laboratory at the Medical School.

NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in becoming involved with some of the cutting edge research going on here at UM, you will want to speak with Dr. Phil McCabe or his colleague, Dr. Ed Green. Both experts in neuroscience, these faculty members also know what is going on at the Medical Campus, as well as on the Coral Gables Campus. Contact Dr. McCabe at x5507 or pmccabe@miami.edu or Dr. Green at x5526 or egreen@miami.edu.