

How to Get into Research and the Neuroscience Capstone Workshop

Presented by the
Undergraduate Interdepartmental Program for Neuroscience





Agenda

- Undergraduate Research Center
- How to start the search for a position
- Applying to labs and contacting faculty
- How to earn academic credit
- The neuroscience major capstone requirement
- Additional Resources



Undergraduate Research Center



Why is research important?

- Experience
 - Can make you a competitive applicant for your future goals.
 - Prepares one for graduate study.
- Career exploration
 - Is a career in research right for you?
- Earn university credit
 - Gain academic credit for a study you are passionate about.
- Build relationships
 - Gain mentorship from distinguished faculty & lab members.
 - Letters of recommendation & career advice.



When should the research exploration process begin?

Freshmen Year

- Get acclimated to UCLA
- Start creating a plan for research & talking with your professors

Sophomore Year

- Start the process of finding a faculty mentor

Transfer Students

- Get acclimated to UCLA
- Start the process of finding a faculty mentor within your first year.



Finding a Faculty Mentor

- Visit Office Hours
- Visit the [Undergraduate Research Center](#) and [portal](#)
- Visit the Neuroscience PhD Faculty list and Brain Research Institute member list
 - <http://www.neuroscience.ucla.edu/faculty>
 - <https://bri.ucla.edu/members-by-research-area/>
- Attend a Lab Placement Fair

Contacting Faculty





Tips for applying to labs


1. **Make a list of up to 15 possible faculty mentors.**
2. **Send them an email**
 - a. State your name, major and purpose of the email
 - b. Express your enthusiasm for gaining experience
 - c. Mention their publications & why you want to work in their lab
 - d. Include your contact information
3. **Attach your CV/Resume**
 - a. Make sure a career counselor has looked over the CV/resume.
4. **Follow Up**
 - a. 1-2 weeks after your initial email, send a polite follow up.

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**How do I get credit for
working in a lab?**

How to earn Academic Credit



- SRP-99 (URC-Sciences)
 - Departmental 199's (Academic departments)
 - Neuroscience 199A & 199B (Neuroscience)
- 



How to earn Academic Credit

SRP-99

- Entry-Level experience
- 1-2 units of lower division credit
- Must be a full time student
- Good Academic Standing
- Pass/No Pass
- Create a contract on MyUCLA
- Contracts are due to the Undergraduate Research Center-Sciences by Friday of Week 2 (via MyUCLA Message Center).



How to earn Academic Credit

199's

- More advanced, independent and a greater time commitment
- Can earn a letter grade
- Can earn 4 units of credit
- Requires a thesis at the end of the quarter
- Administered by the department of the faculty.
- Option for students who want to earn upper division credit for research, but are not yet ready to begin their Neuroscience capstone.

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Neuroscience Capstone Requirement



Neuroscience Capstone Options

NEUROSC 199A/198A & NEUROSC 199B/198B

- Prerequisites: NEUROSC M101A & SRP-99
- Contract course for 2 consecutive quarters
- Faculty sponsor must have an academic senate title
- Due Friday of week 1
- 4 units each. Letter grade given at the end of Neuroscience 199B for 8 units.
- Only available in Fall, Winter, and Spring and must be taken in consecutive quarters



Neuroscience Capstone Options

What is the difference between NEUROSC 199A/B & NEUROSC 198A/B?

Both fulfill the neuroscience research capstone. However, NEUROSC 198A/B is the departmental honors version. If you are a part of the departmental honors program, this is the contract you will create and enroll in.

In addition to all of the requirements of a NEUROSC 199A contract, students completing NEUROSC 198A will be enrolled in an honors seminar, NEUROSC 191H in winter, and complete an honors thesis after NEUROSC 198B (requires a second faculty reader).



Neuroscience Capstone Options

How to Enroll

Step 1. Download Neuroscience 198A or 199A contract from [MyUCLA](#).

Step 2. Complete Supplemental Outline - [198A/199A Supplemental Outline Instructions](#)

Step 3. Fill out [Faculty Sponsor Form](#)

Step 4. Get Faculty mentor to sign BOTH the MyUCLA contract and a faculty sponsor form.

Contracts are due by **4pm Friday of the Week 1 to the CCLE website.



Neuroscience Capstone Options

Laboratory Methods

(1) NEUROSC 101L* (offered in Winter Quarter Only)

- Pre-requisites: NEUROSC M101A, M101B (NEUROSC M101B can be taken concurrently)
- **PSYCH 116A and PSYCH 116B are both approved substitutions for this course (offered all academic quarters and summer session) – please contact [the Neuroscience advisors](#) to update your DARS if you take this course.*

(2) Additional major elective

- Students who choose this option must take a total of 4 upper division electives.



Neuroscience Capstone Options

NEUROSC 199AB: Project Brainstorm Capstone

- Project Brainstorm is a two-quarter outreach and research project offered to Juniors and Seniors in which you have an opportunity to develop teaching lessons on Neuroscience that you present to local K-12 students. Capstone students also develop a research project and present at Neuroscience Poster Day.
- Project Brainstorm meets Thursdays, 9:00 am – 11:50 am in both the Winter and Spring quarters. However, for Capstone students, there will be additional requirements and an increased time commitment.
- If you are interested in doing Project Brainstorm over two quarters to fulfill the Neuroscience Major Capstone Requirement, please download and submit the application when it becomes available in Fall Quarter.



Neuroscience Capstone Options

DOPA Team

- Successful applicants will enroll in two sequential courses: NEUROSC C177 'Drugs of Abuse: Translational Neurobiology' and NEUROSC 192CX 'Drug Abuse and Society: Conveying Concepts to High School.'
- Students will be given the opportunity to choose a drug category and translate the academic knowledge acquired in C177 into an age-appropriate and interactive presentation and hands-on activity for high school students.
- Students will be required to present findings at the annual Neuroscience Poster Day.



Additional Resources





Additional Resources

- Undergraduate Neuroscience Weekly Emails & [Website](#)
 - Check for new position openings
- [Biomedical Research Minor](#)
- NUS Lab Placement Fair
 - End of the quarter
- Neuroscience 22nd Annual Poster Day
 - Always the month of May

Research Contract Drop In Hours

Have a quick question about research contracts?
Stop by a virtual office hour and talk to a neuroscience counselor!

Wednesday, September 29th

1:00PM-2:00PM

Meeting ID: 913 0516 2536
Password: 321578

[https://ucla.zoom.us/j/91305162536?
pwd=M1JoZ3E4Q2VFT0J5M0dKOUVTMFVIQT09](https://ucla.zoom.us/j/91305162536?pwd=M1JoZ3E4Q2VFT0J5M0dKOUVTMFVIQT09)

Friday, October 1st

10:00AM-11:00AM

Meeting ID: 946 3514 8897
Password: 064490

[https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/94635148897?
pwd=VkM2QWxqbDI5VHdaOSJjNEhzT1kzdz09](https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/94635148897?pwd=VkM2QWxqbDI5VHdaOSJjNEhzT1kzdz09)

Contact neurosci@ucla.edu for any additional questions.

Questions?

