How to Get into Research and the Neuroscience Capstone Workshop

Presented by the Undergraduate Interdepartmental Program for Neuroscience
Agenda

- Undergraduate Research Center (Rachel Scott)
- Biomedical Research Minor (Jayro Ramos)
- 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

https://sciences.ugresearch.ucla.edu/
Biomedical Research Minor

https://www.biomedresearchminor.ucla.edu/
Why is research important?

- **Experience**
  - Can make you a competitive applicant for your future goals.
  - Prepares you 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
- Check out the Undergraduate Research Center and portal
- Review the Neuroscience PhD Faculty list and Brain Research Institute member list
  - [http://www.neuroscience.ucla.edu/faculty](http://www.neuroscience.ucla.edu/faculty)
  - [https://bri.ucla.edu/members-by-research-area/](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.
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 & B or 198A & B (major capstone)
How to earn Academic Credit

SRP-99

- Entry-Level experience
- 1-2 units of lower division credit
- Must be a full time student in good academic standing
- Pass/No Pass
- Create a contract on MyUCLA (can choose Neuroscience or the department your lab/PI is based in)
- 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 for 4 units of credit
- Requires a thesis at the end of the quarter
- Administered by the department of the faculty advisor/PI.
- Option for students who want to earn upper division credit for research, but are not yet ready to begin their Neuroscience capstone.
Neuroscience Major
Capstone Requirement
Neuroscience Capstone Options

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

- Prerequisites: NEUROSC M101A & SRP-99 or 199 with same lab
- 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 or 198B 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 for students pursuing departmental honors. 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](#) (different forms for 199A/B and 198A/B)

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 Bruin Learn website.**
Sneak Peek at Our New Bruin Learn Site!
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 from any elective category

- 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 22\textsuperscript{nd} Annual Poster Day
  - Always the month of May
Zoom Drop-In Hours for Capstone & Contract Questions

Jaclyn
- Every Friday from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
- Zoom Link: https://ucla.zoom.us/j/92010241489?pwd=eEJiVHNHY2xrQzJVV2RGMytTOWxCUT09
- Log-In Information:
  - Meeting ID: 920 1024 1489
  - Passcode: 803731

Aftin
- Every Tuesday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Zoom Link: https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/99081164475?pwd=ZFJFTGpHbzHHzYzEyV3VJb2xtTVV6Zz09
- Log-In Information:
  - Meeting ID: 990 8116 4475
  - Passcode: NeuroW22
Questions?