

# 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>
  - <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 & 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.

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# **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!

UCLA ☰ 22W-neurosc-198-199 > Modules Search...

2022 Winter Quarter Collapse All

**Home**  
Syllabus  
Modules  
Assignments  
Media Gallery  
Library Resources  
Search

**Neuroscience Capstone Research Contracts (Due by Friday of Week 1)** Complete One Item

- Research Contract Submission Instructions (PLEASE REVIEW)**  
Mark done
- NEUROSC 199A Contracts and Materials**  
Jan 7 | 0 pts
- NEUROSC 198A Contracts and Materials (departmental honors only)**  
Jan 7 | 0 pts
- NEUROSC 199B Contracts and Materials**  
Jan 7 | 0 pts
- NEUROSC 198B Contracts and Materials (departmental honors only)**  
Jan 7 | 0 pts
- NEUROSC 199C Contracts and Materials**  
Jan 7 | 0 pts
- Project Brainstorm Capstone Contract (NEUROSC 199A)**  
Jan 7 | 0 pts

**To Do**

- NEUROSC 199A C...** x  
Jan 7 at 4pm
- Project Brainstorm...** x  
Jan 7 at 4pm
- NEUROSC 198A C...** x  
Jan 7 at 4pm
- NEUROSC 198B C...** x  
Jan 7 at 4pm
- NEUROSC 199B C...** x  
Jan 7 at 4pm
- NEUROSC 199C C...** x  
Jan 7 at 4pm
- NEUROSC 198A S...** x  
Mar 18 at 4pm

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# 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<sup>nd</sup> 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=ZFJFTGpHbzhHYzEyV3VJb2xtTVV6Zz09>
- Log-In Information:
  - Meeting ID: 990 8116 4475
  - Passcode: NeuroW22



**Questions?**

