

Neuroscience 198A/198B (Honors Research in Neuroscience) Faculty Sponsor Form

Dear Faculty Colleague,

_____, a Neuroscience major, has identified you as their prospective faculty mentor and sponsor for Neuroscience 198A and 198B (Honors Research in Neuroscience). Completion of this two-quarter research sequence, together with an honors thesis, is part of the requirements for graduating with Departmental Honors in Neuroscience.

To be eligible for honors, the student must complete the thesis over two quarters, 198A and 198B, and the completed thesis must be evaluated by both the faculty sponsor and a second faculty reader identified by the student and approved by the faculty mentor. The thesis may be rated Highest Honors, Honors, or No Honors.

The Academic Senate requires a minimum commitment of 12 hours per week in the laboratory. Depending on the scope of the project, honors research may require additional time. Before beginning the honors thesis, the student must have completed at least one quarter of SRP in your lab and Neuroscience M101A.

An honors thesis should reflect meaningful engagement in the research process. The student is expected to participate in the development of the project, the execution of experiments, and the thoughtful interpretation of results. The student should also become familiar with the primary literature relevant to the project so they understand the scientific background, rationale, and methods. While the student may not independently design every aspect of the study, they should be involved in discussions of experimental design and understand why a particular approach was chosen.

In addition to completing the thesis, students must enroll in Neuroscience 191H, the honors research seminar. We strongly encourage faculty sponsors to discuss the background of the project with the student, guide them toward relevant literature, and meet with them regularly throughout the two-quarter sequence. Consistent mentorship is essential to helping students develop sound research judgment and make steady progress.

Thank you for supporting Honors research in Neuroscience. We appreciate your time and mentorship. Please contact us if you have any questions about the program.

Sincerely,

Stephanie White, Undergraduate Neuroscience IDP Chair

Stephanie Leal, Undergraduate Neuroscience IDP Vice Chair

Louis Perez, Neuroscience Undergraduate Academic Advisor

Anou Vang, Neuroscience Undergraduate Academic Advisor

Faculty Sponsorship Acknowledgement

I, _____, am a faculty member at UCLA and agree to serve as the faculty sponsor for _____ for the Neuroscience 198A/198B Honors Research sequence during _____ quarter/year.

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree that:

- I will actively supervise the student's honors research project and provide guidance throughout the research process.
- I will help ensure that the student's work is conducted at a high level and that the student receives appropriate mentorship in understanding each stage of the project.
- I understand that the student is expected to spend an average of at least 12 hours per week in the lab, in accordance with Academic Senate policy.
- While there may be flexibility in how those hours are completed, I will provide appropriate oversight to ensure the student is meeting the expectations of the course.
- By Friday of Finals Week, the student must submit the required written work. Students have been advised to provide their paper to the faculty sponsor with sufficient time for review and revision before the final signed copy is submitted to the Neuroscience Undergraduate Academic Advisors.

Written requirements:

1. 198A: A 3–5 page progress report that includes the hypothesis, significance, and a brief review of the relevant literature.
2. 198B: A complete research paper in standard scientific format, prepared in consultation with the faculty sponsor. The paper must include at least 10 pages of text.

I understand that, at the conclusion of 198B, the thesis will be evaluated by both the faculty sponsor and a second faculty reader. The thesis may be rated Highest Honors, Honors, or No Honors based on the student's research performance and written thesis.

If other students in my lab are working on the same or related projects, I understand that this student's paper must be independently written.

Second Faculty Reader

(Student: Please print the name, department, and email address of the second faculty member who has agreed to read and evaluate your thesis at the conclusion of 198B.)

Name of Second Faculty Reader: _____

Department: _____

Email Address: _____

Faculty Sponsor Signature: _____

Faculty Sponsor Email Address: _____

Student Signature: _____