

Neuroscience 199A/199B (Directed Research in Neuroscience) Faculty Sponsor Form

Dear Faculty Colleague,

_____, a Neuroscience major, has identified you as their prospective faculty mentor and sponsor for Neuroscience 199A and 199B (Directed Research in Neuroscience). The purpose of Directed Research is to provide students with the opportunity to integrate theoretical concepts with practical implementation in a specialized area of interest and to develop the skills and knowledge essential for independent inquiry.

For students applying Neuroscience 199A/199B toward Neuroscience major or minor requirements, the research must be completed over two consecutive quarters in the same laboratory. Before beginning Neuroscience 199A, the student must have completed at least one quarter of SRP in your lab and Neuroscience M101A.

The Academic Senate requires a minimum commitment of 12 hours per week in the laboratory. Depending on the scope of the project, research may require additional time. At the conclusion of the second quarter, the faculty sponsor will assign one 8-unit letter grade for the full two-quarter research sequence.

Directed Research 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.

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 undergraduate 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 199A/199B Directed Research sequence during _____ quarter/year.

By signing below, I acknowledge and agree that:

- I will actively supervise the student's 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. 199A: A 3–5 page progress report that includes the hypothesis, significance, and a brief review of the relevant literature.
2. 199B: A complete research paper in standard scientific format, prepared in consultation with the faculty sponsor. The paper must include at least 7 pages of text.

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.

Faculty Sponsor Signature: _____

Faculty Sponsor Email Address: _____

Student Signature: _____