Neuroscience, PhD

Our neuroscience program provides cutting-edge, interdisciplinary training for graduate students. We integrate several levels of analysis --- molecular, cellular, systems, behavioral and cognitive --- to investigate basic, translational and clinical questions about the relationship between the brain and behavior. You may tailor the program to meet your specific professional goals.

Program Description

Degree Awarded: PHD Neuroscience

Neuroscience involves the study of the nervous system and its relation to an organism's function. It encompasses how gene and nerve networks interact with the environment throughout an organism.

The PhD degree program in neuroscience integrates aspects of graduate-level training from many different units on campus as well as from the program's partner institutions distributed across the greater Phoenix area. Partner institutions include Barrow Neurological Institute, Translational Genomics Research Institute, University of Arizona College of Medicine and Sun Health Research Institute.

At a Glance

- College/School: College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Location: Tempe campus

Degree Requirements

84 credit hours, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation
The program requires the completion of 84 credit hours of which only 12 hours are dissertation credits. At least 18 credit hours of formal coursework are required. In consultation with their committee and their supervisor or mentor, students will be able to customize their plan of study to suit their particular interests and goals.

Each student completes six credit hours of core course credits. The core course sequence must be completed before the oral and written evaluation examinations are taken. Additional credit hours will be comprised of specialized disciplinary courses or research credits chosen in consultation with the mentor and advisory committee. A one credit hour journal club seminar will be required each semester.

Advancement to candidacy will be dependent on successfully passing a formal comprehensive examination that includes a written proposal of the dissertation research and an oral examination in the broader areas that pertain to that research study. When the research is completed, the dissertation must be written and presented in a public seminar and successfully defended before the supervisory committee.

Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Regular admission may be granted to applicants who have achieved a GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") or better in the last two years of work leading to a bachelor's degree and who are competitive in the applicant pool as evidenced by GRE verbal, quantitative and analytical scores, the statement of educational and career goals (personal statement) and the letters of recommendation. Particular attention will be paid to research experience and overall preparation in problem-solving abilities as evidenced by previous coursework, research experiences and GRE scores.

Because this program draws on an extremely broad range of disciplinary backgrounds in recruiting students, there is no specific set of undergraduate course requirements other than those implied by the degree requirements described above. Most students will be expected to have had coursework in biology, chemistry and math or demonstrated ability through a subject test GRE.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of a student's first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.00 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

All applicants must submit:
1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. academic record form
4. personal statement
5. curriculum vitae or resume
6. GRE scores
7. three letters of recommendation
8. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information
An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency.

Desired qualifications:

1. GRE scores: 50 percent verbal and 70 percent quantitative
2. research experience

Contact Information

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