


# Doctor of Philosophy - Neuroscience

2 Graduate Program Change 2021-22

## I. General Information

The faculty member originating this proposal is to complete sections I and II.

TURN ON help text before starting this proposal by clicking  in the top right corner of the heading. You will need to turn on help text again after any actions that refresh the page including after saving proposals, importing information, or running impact reports.

IMPORT curriculum data from the Catalog by clicking  in the top left corner.

Do not make any changes to any information until the proposal has been launched in Step 4.

Department (s) (if Dual or Interdisciplinary please add all departments)\*

IDGP - Neurosciences

Degree/ Certificate Name\*

Doctor of Philosophy - Neuroscience

Plan Code

Degree Type\*

Doctor of Philosophy

Program Type\*

Doctoral

## II. Program Changes

FILL IN ONLY fields required marked with an \* after importing data. You will not be able to launch the proposal without completing required fields. Do not make proposed changes to the information that was imported until after the proposal has been launched in Step 4. Changes will only be tracked after the proposal is launched

Are you changing admission

Yes  No

requirements?\*

Are you changing course requirements?  Yes  No

Are you changing degree completion requirements?  Yes  No

Are you changing the primary instructional mode?  Yes  No

Are you changing program learning objectives?  Yes  No

Are you changing the culminating experience?  Yes  No

If not a Dual itself, is this program also available as part of a Dual-Degree offering?  Yes  No

Other (e.g. subplan titles,...)  Yes  No

If yes, describe changes to learning objectives:

**Provide a Brief Summary of Proposed Changes**

We would like to remove the following admission requirement "Satisfactory scores on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), taken within the last 5 years."

We would like to instead make the GRE optional for students to submit if they want to.




**Provide a rationale for each proposed change**

An increasing number of doctoral programs across the country have been dropping the GRE requirement for admissions, and neuroscience programs currently are among the least likely to currently require GRE scores, according to Science Magazine, <https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2019/05/wave-graduate-programs-drop-gre-application-requirement>.

The faculty on our program's Executive Committee further feel that while GRE scores can be helpful, 1) they are almost never the primary reason a student is considered, admitted, or denied admission, and 2) there is a concern that they may exacerbate inequity given that those from privileged background may be more likely to have better GRE scores for various reasons, regardless of their promise as future neuroscientists.

**Do not make any changes to any information until the proposal has been launched in Step 4.**

Follow these steps to change the program curriculum:

1. Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." Edit existing cores or click 'Add Core' and name your core (please use a comparable degree program in the current graduate catalog as a template). Edit or add any descriptive text (do not add courses until Step 2). Descriptive text is generally used in the following cores: Plan Description, Plan Admission Requirements, Plan Requirements, Plan Graduation Requirements.
2. There are two options for adding courses (see Step 3 to remove courses): "Add Course" and "Import Course." For courses already in the catalog, click on "Import Course" and find the courses needed. For new classes going through a Curriculog Approval Process click on "Add Course"-- a box will open asking you for the Prefix, Course Number and Course Title.
3. Click on  "View Curriculum Schema." Click on the area/header of the program where you would like to add courses. When you click on "Add Courses" it will bring up the list of courses available from Step 2. Select the courses you wish to add. For removing courses click on the  and proceed.

After you have launched proposal, update prospective curriculum here\*

## Plan Description

The UNLV Neuroscience Ph.D. program trains graduate students to become independent neuroscientists who possess a broad, interdisciplinary foundation of knowledge in one or more specific areas of neuroscience. This research-intensive program will prepare students to pursue post-doctoral research and independent research careers in neuroscience. Coursework and mentored research teach students to understand the existing neuroscience literature, generate new knowledge, and attract funding to support their research in preparation for careers in academic, medical, government, or private industry settings. Students are welcome to engage in collaborations with multiple laboratories at UNLV and other institutions. The program welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and those with diversity-related research interests. For more information about your program, including your graduate program handbook and learning outcomes, please visit the Degree Directory.

## Plan Admission Requirements

**Application deadlines** Applications available on the UNLV Graduate College website. The program will only admit students who are seeking a doctoral degree. The program will admit students for matriculation in the fall semester. Review of completed applications will continue until all positions are filled. Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as early as possible. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.00 (A = 4.00) or a master's degree or equivalent from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.50. Applicants must have completed at least 18 credits in biological or health sciences, cognitive science, neuroscience, or psychology courses including Statistics and Research Methods or their equivalents, at the undergraduate or the graduate level. Three letters of recommendation. A statement of purpose written by the applicant. Optional: Scores on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) may be submitted but ARE NOT required. Admission to the program will be based on a mentoring model. Students under serious consideration for admission to the Neuroscience Ph.D. are required to have an in-person interview with the sponsoring faculty member and at least two other program faculty members. If an in-person is not financially or pragmatically feasible, a telephone or web interview may be substituted. All domestic and international applicants must review and follow the Graduate College Admission and Registration Requirements. Students are accepted into a degree program as described in the Graduate Catalog. The faculty and corresponding sub-disciplines and sub-plans within the described programs are subject to change at any time.

## Plan Requirements

## Plan Requirements

See Subplan Requirements below. Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's Track Subplan 2: Post-Master's Track

## Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor's Track

Total Credits Required: 62

## Course Requirements

### Required Courses - Credits: 14

Complete 14 credits by completing all of the following courses, including 6 total credits of NEUS 711.

<b>PSY 719 Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PSY 720 Systems and Cognitive Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>BIOL 701 Ethics in Scientific Research</b>	<b>1 - 2</b>
<b>[After] Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study for a total of 6 credits:</b>	
<b>NEUS 711 Proseminar in Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>

### Statistics Course - Credits: 3

Complete one of the following courses or other advisor approved courses:

<b>BIOL 636 Biometry</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>KIN 751 Selected Application of Statistical Techniques I</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>KIN 752 Selected Application of Statistical Techniques II</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PSY 708 Statistics for Psychologists I</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PSY 709 Statistics for Psychologists II</b>	<b>3</b>

### Elective Courses - Credits: 21

Complete 21 credits from the following or other advisor-approved courses:

<b>NEUS 721 Seminar in Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEUS 799 Independent Study</b>	<b>1-9</b>

### **Qualifying Activity - Credits: 6**

<b>NEUS 780 Qualifying Activity</b>	<b>6</b>
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### **Dissertation - Credits: 18**

<b>NEUS 781 Dissertation</b>	<b>3-9</b>
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### **Subplan 2: Post-Master's Track**

**Total Credits Required: 42**

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Required Course - Credits: 6**

Complete the following course each semester during the first two years of study for a total of 6 credits:

<b>NEUS 711 Proseminar in Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>
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#### **Elective Courses - Credits: 12**

Complete 12 credits from the following or other advisor-approved courses:

<b>NEUS 721 Seminar in Neuroscience</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>NEUS 799 Independent Study</b>	<b>1-9</b>

### **Qualifying Activity - Credits: 6**

**Dissertation - Credits: 18****NEUS 781 Dissertation****3-9****Degree Requirements**

A minimum of 62 credits (or 42 for post-masters students) in graduate coursework is required for the doctoral degree. Students must obtain a grade of B- or better in each course taken for that course to count toward the degree. One grade below a B- (i.e. C+ or lower) will result in probation. Once on probation for receiving a grade below a B-, a second grade (in the same or different classes) below a B-, will result in immediate separation from the program. If a student re-takes a course in which they received a grade lower than a B- (i.e., C+ or lower) and earns a B- or better, they will be removed from probation. A student may only be on academic probation twice during their graduate career; a third probation will result in separation from the program. No student shall be allowed more than two simultaneous grades of incomplete, except in the case of a documented and approved medical leave. Students must conform to all policies of the UNLV Graduate College, as stated in the UNLV Graduate Catalog, those stated in the UNLV Neuroscience Doctoral Program Student Handbook, the Belmont Report: Ethical Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of Human Subjects of Research, and the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Students must take a minimum of four semesters of dissertation, which can include summers. The dissertation must be orally proposed and defended.

**Plan Graduation Requirements**

The student must submit all required forms to the Graduate College as well as apply for graduation up to two semesters prior to completing their degree requirements for the program. Doctoral students are required to complete a minimum of 12 credits of dissertation credits: NEUS 781 – Dissertation, write an original dissertation of substantial quality and length on a neuroscience topic, and successfully defend this work in front of the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must work with their Graduate Advisory Committee to ensure quality research, analysis and writing of the comprehensive exams and dissertation. Satisfactory performance on an oral defense of the dissertation prospectus to be held after the successful completion of all course work and the four comprehensive examinations is required. The oral defense will cover the student's dissertation proposal and any deficiencies on the comprehensive exams or in the student's program of study. Upon successful completion of the oral defense of the dissertation

prospectus, the student may advance to candidacy and enroll in dissertation credits. Upon completion of the dissertation, a final oral defense will be held in front of the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. Committee members must unanimously pass the student on their oral defense for the Ph.D. to be conferred. The student must submit and successfully defend their dissertation by the posted deadline. The defense must be advertised and is open to the public. After the dissertation defense, the student must electronically submit a properly formatted pdf copy of their dissertation to the Graduate College for format check. Once the dissertation format has been approved by the Graduate College, the student will submit the approved electronic version to ProQuest. Deadlines for dissertation defenses, format check submissions, and the final ProQuest submission can be found here.

The [Degrees Directory](#) provides current and consistent degree information. Submission of this form indicates acknowledgment and understanding that every department is responsible creating and maintaining accurate and updated program information on the UNLV Degrees Directory.

If the changes included on this form impact the program handbook attach the updated handbook before submitting this form. If you need a Word version of the most recent handbook please email [GradCurriculum@unlv.edu](mailto:GradCurriculum@unlv.edu).

If new courses are added as placeholders within this proposal, new courses must be created using a Course Create form simultaneously to the process of this proposal.

**Degrees Directory Program Entry\***  Check this box to acknowledge the above statement.


**Changes will be applicable to\***  Current Students  
 New Students  
 Both Current and New Students


**If applicable to current students, changes are**  Mandatory  Optional

**Effective Date\***

4. LAUNCH proposal by clicking  in the top left corner.

5. After launching the proposal, make all changes and fill in all additional fields.

6. Finish the launch of your proposal by clicking the icon  located in the Proposal Toolbox on left side at top. Make your decision, comment is optional, and click on "Make decision".


You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.



### III. Department Vote Information

Note: This section is to be filled out by the Department Chair on behalf of the committee.

(The role has been assigned to the corresponding person on this step. If incorrect, please notify GradCurriculum@unlv.edu)

1. Review the proposal. Discuss and make appropriate revisions.
2. Fill in vote information.
3. Then go to the proposal toolbox at the top right side. Click on  and select the corresponding decision for the committee. This will enable the proposal to go to the next person on the workflow.

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

If Dual or Interdisciplinary: add votes from all departments/colleges involved

(e.g. "Dpt A: .... / Dpt. B ....")

**Date faculty voted on proposal** 2/5/21


**Result of vote** 7-0

**Manner of vote** raise of hands or verbally during a real time meeting on Webex

### IV. Unit Vote Information

Note: This section is to be filled out by the College Committee Chair on behalf of the committee.

(The role has been assigned to the corresponding person on this step. If incorrect, please notify GradCurriculum@unlv.edu)

1. Review the proposal. Discuss and make appropriate revisions.
2. Fill in vote information.
3. Then go to the proposal toolbox at the top right side. Click on  and select the corresponding decision for the committee. This will enable the proposal to go to the next person on the workflow.

You can check the status of the proposal by clicking  in Proposal Toolbox to verify that the proposal has gone to the next step.

If Dual or Interdisciplinary: add votes from all departments/colleges involved

(e.a. "Colleae A: .... / Colleae B ....")

**Date faculty voted on proposal** 3-30-2021

**Result of vote** 3Y-0N-0Abs

**Manner of vote** online

### V. Processing Notes (Graduate College/Registrar Use Only)

**Program Alerts (E.g. This program is no longer accepting applications)**

**PS Processing Notes**

**PS Processing Date**

**Initials**

**Aalog Processing Notes**

**Aalog Processing Date**

**Initials**

## Comments for Doctor of Philosophy - Neuroscience

<b>Curriculog</b>	5/7/2021 3:26 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Emily Lin has approved this proposal on Graduate College Dean.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	5/7/2021 8:28 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Gregory Moody has approved this proposal on behalf of Graduate Programs Committee. See <a href="#">Graduate Programs Committee Agenda - May 4, 2021</a> for more information.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	5/6/2021 4:35 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Graduate Programs Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	4/5/2021 10:25 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Emily Lin has approved this proposal on School/College Associate Dean/ Dean.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	4/5/2021 10:23 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Emily Lin has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	3/30/2021 6:55 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Sharon Jalene has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	3/16/2021 2:43 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Denise Tillery has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	
<b>Andrew Andres</b>	3/16/2021 10:50 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
The Dean of the College of Sciences votes yes to support this proposal.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	3/16/2021 10:50 am <a href="#">Reply</a>
Andrew Andres has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	2/22/2021 2:27 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Sharon Jalene has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	
<b>Curriculog</b>	2/22/2021 2:27 pm <a href="#">Reply</a>
Sharon Jalene has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.	

**Curriculog**

2/19/2021 1:29 pm [Reply](#)

Sharon Jalene has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.

**Curriculog**

2/19/2021 1:28 pm [Reply](#)

Sharon Jalene has approved this proposal on School/College Committee.

**Curriculog**

2/12/2021 7:47 am [Reply](#)

Joel Snyder has approved this proposal on Department Chair.

**Curriculog**

2/12/2021 7:47 am [Reply](#)

Joel Snyder has approved this proposal on Graduate Coordinator.

**Curriculog**

2/11/2021 4:38 pm [Reply](#)

Graduate Curriculum has approved this proposal on Technical Review.

**Curriculog**

2/11/2021 8:17 am [Reply](#)

Joel Snyder has approved this proposal on Originator.

**Curriculog**

2/10/2021 1:17 pm [Reply](#)

Joel Snyder has launched this proposal.

**Curriculog**

2/10/2021 1:15 pm [Reply](#)

Joel Snyder imported from the map 2021-2022 Working Graduate Catalog into the following proposal fields: I. General Information: Degree/ Certificate Name, I. General Information: Degree Type, I. General Information: Program Type, II. Program Changes: After you have launched proposal, update prospective curriculum here.