REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS STUDENTS IN THE NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM

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Summary of requirements for candidacy to the M.S. program:
All Neuroscience Masters students must complete and pass at least six graduate level courses with a grade of B- or better, including one laboratory or research-based course. In addition, students must register for and attend Responsible Conduct of Science (a not-for-credit course), Proseminar, two semesters of Journal Clubs, and two semesters of the Graduate Student Research Seminar. This program is designed to be completed in one year.

LIFE SCIENCES GRADUATE LEVEL COURSES
Students are required to take six graduate level lecture courses as well as journal club, proseminar, and the graduate student research seminar. When the degree is to be completed in one year, this will be done at a rate of three courses per semester for each of two semesters. However, some students may, instead, elect to finish the degree in two years (e.g. when they introduce a heavy research component into the program). Courses outside of the life sciences will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the program chair. In general, transfer credit is not accepted for the Master’s Program.

Courses: A total of six graduate-level lecture course (passed with a grade of B- or better), are required for the degree. Graduate level courses are defined as having a number equal to or greater than 100 in the Brandeis Catalog. The six courses must include NBIO 140 (Principles of Neuroscience) and one laboratory or research-based single-semester course, with the remaining courses to be agreed upon by the Neuroscience Masters program chair.

Journal clubs: Students must register for and attend two semesters of at least one appropriate journal club. Masters students are not required to present an article in the Journal club. Acceptable Journal Clubs include Neurobiology (NBIO306a/b) or Computational Neuroscience (NBIO340a/b).

Proseminar: Students must register for and attend Proseminar, (NBIO250) held Mondays at Noon in the fall semester.

Graduate Student Research Seminar: All students must register for and attend two semesters of the Graduate Student Research Seminar (‘pizza talks’), held on Fridays at 12:30pm. Masters students are not required to present at this seminar.

Responsible Conduct of Science: Students must register for and attend Responsible Conduct of Science, CONT300B, in the Spring semester.
Seminar series: All students are expected to attend the Joint Biology and Neuroscience Seminar series, held on Wednesdays at 4pm.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT:
There are several options for completion of the research requirement: 1) One semester of Laboratory Rotations (NEUR 300), 2) Completion of a permitted Project Laboratory with a grade of B- or better (e.g. BIOL 155a, BIOL 156a, BIOL158b, BCHM155b, or NBIO157a), or 3) Readings in Neuroscience (NEUR298).

Laboratory Rotations (NEUR 300): As one option to fulfill the research requirement of the Master’s degree, this offers students an opportunity to engage in biological research by working in the laboratory of a faculty member for at least 10 hours/week for one semester. Approval of the faculty member in whose lab the research is to take place is required. It is the responsibility of the student to arrange the Master’s Research Lab with the appropriate faculty member and Neuroscience Master’s students are not guaranteed a spot in a research lab. Students who wish to work in a lab their first semester should attend the faculty bazaar during orientation week to familiarize themselves with the ongoing research before approaching faculty about lab work. Students who choose to do a Laboratory Rotation should register for NEUR300. At the end of the semester of lab work, the student will submit a written research lab report, one copy of which is given to the supervising faculty member, another to the program chair, and one to the Biology office in Bassine. This report will be due one week before the start of that semester’s final exam period. Successful completion of the laboratory rotation requires that the supervising faculty member gives the student a satisfactory grade for their research performance and for their lab report.

COURSES TO REGISTER FOR:
Students in their first semester (Fall) should register for: NBIO 250a, BIOL350a, at least one journal club (NBIO306a or NBIO340a), NBIO140, and two additional graduate-level neuroscience lecture courses (one of which may be a research-based course if completing the requirement in the fall)

Students in their second semester (Spring) should register for: BIOL350b, at least one journal club (NBIO306b or NBIO340b), CONT300b, and three graduate-level neuroscience lecture courses (one of which may be a research-based course if completing the requirement in the spring)

PROGRESS:
Student progress will be reviewed by the graduate committee and the chair of the program at the end of each semester. The student must receive a grade of B- or better in all courses and may be terminated at the end of the first semester if the student's record is unsatisfactory. Students wishing to be admitted to a second year of study must demonstrate adequate progress.