REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTERS STUDENTS IN
THE NEUROSCIENCE PROGRAM

MS NEURO PROGRAM CHAIR:
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SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR NEURO MASTER’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:
• NBIO140 (Principles of Neuroscience)
• One laboratory or research-based single-semester course (see Research Requirement
below for more information)
• Four elective courses agreed upon by the Neuroscience Master’s 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, typically offered in the Spring semester.

**Tuesday Colloquia series:** All students should attend the regular Joint Biology/Neuroscience Colloquia on Tuesdays at 12:30pm.

**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 (NEUR297).

1) **Laboratory Rotations** (NEUR 300): A laboratory rotation 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 on-going research before approaching faculty about lab work. Students who choose to do a Laboratory Rotation should register for NEUR300. One week before the start of that semester’s final exam period the student will submit copies of a written research lab report to the supervising faculty member, program Chair, and the Grad Affairs Office in the Ros-Kos Connector. Successful completion of the laboratory rotation requires a satisfactory grade from the supervising faculty member for the students’ research performance and lab report.

2) **Project Laboratory:** The project laboratory provides a semi-independent, guided research project experience. Options include BIOL 155a: Genetics and Genomics, BIOL 156a: Biotechnology, BIOL 158b: Cell Biology, BCHM 155b: Biochemistry Laboratory, NBIO 157a: Neurobiology and Behavior.

3) **Readings in Neuroscience** (NEUR297): Requires special approval by the Chair on a case-by-case basis.

**TIMELINE:**
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. In rare instances, students may wish to be admitted to a second year of study. In this case, the student must demonstrate adequate progress, and must speak with the program Chair.

**RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT:**

The minimum residence requirement for the MS degree is one year. Students may take an additional one or two semesters to complete the MS degree as an Extended Master's student with approval of the program Chair.