

Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Program

Contact Us

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Description

The Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology (NBB) major is an interdisciplinary program that provides a unique science background and an excellent foundation for advanced studies in biological and behavioral research as well as medicine. NBB has become one of the "signature" programs of Emory College and has over 300 majors and approximately 100 students each year graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree. The program draws upon the resources, expertise, enthusiasm, and commitment of a diverse faculty, including representatives from biology, psychology, anthropology, chemistry, philosophy, and the School of Medicine. The NBB faculty includes 25 members who have been designated Emory Distinguished Professors by the Office of the Provost and 14 winners of the Emory Williams Teaching Award, Emory University's highest award for excellence in teaching.

In the NBB program, students can undertake independent laboratory research with Emory faculty, engage in challenging faculty-student interactions, and participate in seminars and special events that often present distinguished guest speakers. Qualified senior NBB majors can participate in the NBB Honors Program and become members of Nu Rho Psi, Emory's neuroscience honor society. NBB majors also have the unique opportunity to study with researchers affiliated with the Yerkes National Primate Research Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, and the Neuroscience Initiative. NBB majors also have the opportunity to be involved in a study abroad exchange program with St Andrews in Scotland. In cooperation with St Andrews, NBB graduates can obtain a master's of philosophy (MPhil) in neuroscience in one year. Other study abroad options include Melbourne University in Australia and summer study in Paris, France where students are able to complete a core class and an elective.

Concentrations

Majors are offered in the area(s) of: **Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology**. For details, see the Major page for each area.

Faculty

Chair/Director: Paul Lennard

Director of Undergraduate Studies: Keith Easterling

Core Faculty

Michael Crutcher; Keith Easterling; Kristen Frenzel; Paul Lennard

Associated Faculty

George Armelagos; Jocelyne Bachevalier; John Banja; Lawrence Barsalou; Gary Bassell; Patricia Bauer; Christopher Beck; Gregory Berns; Patricia Brennan; Elizabeth Buffalo; Ronald Calabrese; Claudia Capra; Kenneth Carter; Dennis Choi; Frans de Waal; Henry Edelhofer; David Edwards; Eugene Emory; Shlomit Finkelstein; Nicholas Fotion; Harold Gouzoules; Sarah Gouzoules; Stephan Hamann; Benjamin Hampstead; Robert Hampton; Linton Hopkins; Leonard Howell; Dieter Jaeger; Heather Kimmel; Melvin Konner; Howard Kushner; Michelle Lampl; Allan Levey; Richard Levinson; Scott Lilienfeld; Robert Liu; David Lynn; Donna Maney; Joseph Manns; Patricia Marsteller; Anthony Martin; Robert McCauley; Christopher Muly; Darryl Neill; Ilya Nemenman; Wendy Newby; Lynne Nygaard; Laura Otis; Chikako Ozawa-de Silva; Lisa Parr; Paul Plotsky; Todd Preuss; Astrid Prinz; Ivan Rasnik; James Rilling; Mark Risjord; Hillary Rodman; Leah Roesch; Deboleena Roy; Mar Sanchez; Krishnankutty Sathian; Iain Shepherd; Bradd Shore; Melody Siegler; Amanda Starnes; Donald Stein; Darrell Stokes; Irwin Waldman; Elaine Walker; Kim Wallen; Jay Weiss; Patricia Whitten; George Wilmot; Phillip Wolff; Carol Worthman; David Wright; Larry Young; Stuart Zola

Courses

Core Subjects

This department offers courses in the following subject(s): **Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology**. For a list of specific courses in each subject area, see the course descriptions page for that subject.

Special Course Areas

NBB Research and Supervised Reading opportunities

NBB 495A: Honors Research. NBB 495B: Honors Research. NBB 497: Supervised Writing. NBB 497R: Supervised Reading. NBB 499R: Undergraduate Research

Anthropology Electives for NBB

ANT 210: Hum Biol:Life Cycle Approach. ANT 306: Primate Mating Strategies. ANT 333: Disease & Human Behavior

Biology Electives for NBB

BIOL 241: Evolutionary Biology. BIOL 325: Primate Social Psychology. BIOL 336: Human Physiology. BIOL 348: Mechanisms Of Animal Behavior. BIOL 475: Biology Of The Eye

Psychology Electives for NBB

PSYC 103: Brain & Behavior. PSYC 215: Cognition. PSYC 321: Behavrl Neuroendocrinology:Sex. PSYC 325: Primate Social Psychology. PSYC 350: Behavior Modification

Additional Electives for NBB

CHEM 301: Biochemistry I. CHEM 468: Perspectives in Chemistry

Programs

Honors Program

Qualified seniors are encouraged to participate in the Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Honors Program. Admission to the Honors Program depends upon criteria established by the college and sponsorship by a member of the neuroscience and behavioral biology core faculty. Students must complete NBB 221 or NBB 470 Clinical Research Practicum and two semesters of undergraduate research NBB 495A (four hours) and NBB 495B (four hours) and attend a biweekly honors seminar. In addition, students are required to enroll in at least one graduate-level course. See "Honors Program" under the curriculum section of the catalog and consult the department for further details.

Study Abroad

University of St. Andrews, Scotland

Brain StEm (Spring and Fall Courses)

The Emory Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology Program (NBB) and the University of St. Andrews Schools of Biology and Psychology have established a unique type of study abroad exchange program. The "Brain StEm" Program, represents the creation of a true "sister school" relationship between the extremely strong neuroscience and behavioral sciences programs at the two institutions. Emory's NBB Program is one of the largest undergraduate programs in North America with over 300 majors and seventy-five faculty members. The neuroscience program at University of St Andrews is a joint undertaking of the Schools of Biology and Psychology which both recently received top ratings from RAE, the national audit of research quality in UK university departments. What does all this mean for the students? By implementing "The Institute of Behavioral and Neural Sciences", rather than an a la carte approach to selecting courses, a coherent program of pre-approved courses has been put into place. Overall curriculum and appropriate courses have been evaluated and selected by the faculty of each institution and faculty advisors are in place at Emory and St. Andrews to assist the students participating in "Brain StEm". Here at Emory this translates into a study abroad program that provides pre-approved equivalents for: NBB 301& 401, required core courses; NBB 221, the statistics & experimental design course which is a prerequisite for undergraduate research; and twenty-five University of St. Andrew courses which can serve as electives for the NBB major!

MPhil in NBB (Masters in Philosophy- 1 year)

Building upon the successful Brain StEm program, Emory and St. Andrews are offering a 4+1 BS (Emory) MPhil (St. Andrews) research-based NBB degree combination. To qualify, Emory NBB majors must have a 3.5 GPA and have an invitation from one of the St. Andrews participating professors, or graduate from Emory with honors in NBB. The first year of the normally two-year MPhil program will be waived, allowing qualifying NBB BS graduates to complete their Masters degree in one year. Contact the NBB office for further information.

Emory Melbourne University Science Experience (E.M.U.S.E)

A program that has been designed specifically for Emory Biology, Chemistry, and NBB students in their junior and senior year who are interested in spending a semester abroad in Melbourne, Australia. As a student program, you will undertake a research-focused study abroad experience while also taking biology, neuroscience, or chemistry courses offered Fall and Spring semesters: Semester 1 runs from early February to mid June; Semester 2 runs from early July to Mid November. This program is ran in conjunction with the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and the Department of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne. For more information please contact the NBB office.

NBB Study Abroad in France (summer)

Neuroscience and Behavioral Biology program is offering a unique opportunity to study in Paris for a 5-week program that will connect the rich history of French neurology with contemporary neuroscience research. Students will couple in-class discussions with a variety of extracurricular outings to locations that illustrate France's role in early Neurology (e.g. Hôpital de la Salpêtrière) and its current research interests (e.g. Institut Curie or La Cité des Sciences). This program provides completion of one NBB core course and one NBB elective. Please note: NO FRENCH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY IS REQUIRED.

Students are encouraged to have a GPA minimum of 3.0 for the above study abroad programs.

Advising

Each NBB major is assigned an academic advisor. It is imperative that students meet with their advisers at least once a semester to discuss courses that meet the requirements of the major. In addition, students should talk to their advisors about future career plans; i.e., graduate school, medical school, etc., as there may be additional courses they should take for entrance to graduate school. Advisors will be available during pre-registration and their office hours. However, advisors will often have more time to spend with students at times other than pre-registration. Students should take advantage of these times in scheduling appointments with their advisors.

The NBB office has an open-door policy to assist students in receiving information needed to further their undergraduate academic education.