PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
A new five-year dual degree program jointly sponsored by the Wake Forest University College of Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School of Arts and Science offers Wake Forest University undergraduates pursuing a B.S. or B.A. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences with a minor in Neuroscience the opportunity to earn a research-oriented M.S. degree with a concentration in Neuroscience with one additional year of study. The program builds on the existing Neuroscience Minor and utilizes existing course and research opportunities associated with the Graduate School’s Neuroscience Program.

The goal of the program is to provide highly motivated undergraduate students with sophisticated training in neuroscience, and the opportunity to build critical thinking and research skills. Students will gain graduate course credit and an enhanced research experience that will provide them with a competitive edge to apply to graduate or professional schools, or to pursue non-academic careers that require research expertise in the life sciences and Neuroscience.

STUDENT ADVISING
Upon acceptance to the Program, the Neuroscience Minor Director and the Neuroscience Program Director will serve as advisors to the students. Once the student chooses a thesis lab, the thesis advisor, together with the student’s advisory committee will assume primary advisory duties.

Students will continue to meet with the Neuroscience Minor Director and the Neuroscience Program Director once each year to review progress, career goals and course of study.

PROGRAM FORMAT/CURRICULUM
This is a challenging, five-year program for highly motivated students pursuing the Neuroscience Minor. Students participating in the dual degree program must commit to being full-time students.

Students will begin the program in the junior year. To complete the program in the five-year time frame, students must begin research in the lab of their thesis mentor in the junior year. In addition, students will have the opportunity to begin graduate level coursework by attending a Neuroscience Journal Club each semester, and attend the Neuroscience Seminars course for at least one semester during the junior or senior year.

The sequence of coursework and research is outlined below.

YEARS 1-4
All Neuroscience Minor requirements must be met by the senior year. Dual degree students must include at least one of the following courses:

- BIO 323 Animal Behavior (4)
- BIO 346 Neurobiology (4)
- BIO 352 Developmental Neurobiology (4)
- BIO 364 Sensory Biology (4)

MS Requirements & Neuroscience Minor (Years 3-4)

- NEUR Journal Club
- NEUR 703/4 Seminars in Neuroscience (1)
- Research hours

YEAR 5
- NEUR 701 Introduction to Neuroscience I (5)
- NEUR 702 Introduction to Neuroscience II (5)

• NEUR 703/4 Seminars in Neuroscience (1)
• NEUR 741 Quantitative Methods (3)
• Elective (2-3)
• Journal Club; 2 semesters (2)

MS Research Requirements

YEAR 3
Fall Semester
- Choose thesis/research advisor
- Learn basic research skills
- Begin to develop MS thesis project

Spring Semester
- Define thesis project
- Establish Advisory Committee
- Begin work on thesis project

YEAR 4
- Student completes project proposal
- Admitted to candidacy
- Continue research on thesis project

Summer Session
- Thesis Research

YEAR 5
- Successfully complete an original investigation
- Submit a written thesis
- Acceptance of the written thesis by advisory committee
- Pass final oral examination
ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM

Students will typically apply for admission in the dual degree program during the spring semester of their sophomore year. The choice of undergraduate majors is open. Students must have an overall GPA of 3.25 or better to be considered for admission to the dual degree program. At the time of admission to the joint program, students will also declare the Neuroscience Minor. Students who wish to apply for the program at a later time point must secure a recommendation from the Neuroscience Minor Director prior to submitting their application and must demonstrate the ability to complete the requirements of the program within five years. These applications will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

It is recommended that each student identify a faculty member willing to serve as his/her research mentor at the time of application, although this is not a requirement. Applications will be reviewed by the dual-degree subcommittee of the Neuroscience Program Admissions Committee.

READY TO APPLY
(http://graduate.wfu.edu/admissions)

Deadline
- May 31st for fall 2015 admission
- March 1st in future years

Checklist
- WFU undergrad-Neuroscience Minor
- Submission of application
- Personal Statement
- Resume or C.V.
- Transcripts (unofficial acceptable)
- 2 Recommendations
  - one from faculty in student’s major
  - one from undergraduate neuroscience faculty

FINANCIAL AID

Applicants will be considered for a partial tuition scholarship during the 5th year of study (master’s program).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Providing highly motivated undergraduate students with sophisticated training in neuroscience

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