

Undergraduate Research  
Undergraduate Neuroscience Program  
NSCI 197 (Fall) /198 (Spring)

**MESSAGE TO FACULTY RESEARCH SPONSORS**

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a Faculty Research Sponsor for a student conducting Undergraduate Research (NSCI 197/198) as part of their Neuroscience major. As you know, undergraduate research projects are critical components of a solid undergraduate life science major and in our major it is a central event in their academic experience. The Neuroscience major requires completion of a research course as part of the curriculum.

The goal of Neuroscience Undergraduate Research is to allow students to work closely with experienced researchers who will aid in the identification and conduct of an original research project. Students typically work 3 hours per week per hour of credit in the lab or field (so, nine hours for the typical 3 credits). They may take 1-6 credit hours of research each semester.

If students take 2 or more credit hours of research in a semester, they are required to prepare a Research Proposal under your guidance. After you approve the proposal, and sign off on the title cover page, the student will submit a paper copy of the proposal to me (**Department of Psychological Science, Undergraduate Neuroscience Director, Dr. Jom Hammack, Dewey 336, [shammack@uvm.edu](mailto:shammack@uvm.edu), 656-1041**).

**The proposals are due two days before the end of the Drop period (which is two weeks after the first day of the semester)**, although students are strongly urged to get their proposal done far earlier.

Undergraduate researchers must work closely with you on the project. In practice, most students work day-to-day with a Postdoctoral Fellow or senior graduate student. The student should also make periodic contact with the Faculty Research Sponsor to discuss progress, questions, and to receive guidance.

Occasionally students work with a Faculty Research Sponsor off campus (at a field site or during international study). These Sponsors have a particular responsibility to assure that the student receives substantial academic benefit and conducts a scientific, conceptual study.

**Students will prepare a paper in standard journal format under the supervision of the Faculty Research Sponsor.** The student should know which journal is being used as the model for format, but that is left to you to decide which journal is appropriate for the research topic.

**The student may be required by the Undergraduate Neuroscience Program to present a short talk, in addition to preparing a paper.** Again, the student will know if she/he is required to present a talk and will discuss the format of the talk.

The Neuroscience Undergraduate Program Director will award the final grade based on your evaluation (most important!), the final paper, and the mini-seminar presentation (if required). One or more other faculty may be consulted for their views.

**The deadline for submission of the paper and grades to me is the LAST DAY OF CLASSES.** For students doing two semesters of research (the most common situation), the grade is recorded as an SP in the Fall, and then the grade for both semesters is due by the last day of classes in the Spring. **The students know it is their responsibility to remind you to submit the grade, and for them to submit the paper you have approved.** Please assist them to complete the course by the final deadline.

Again, thank you for bringing a student into your research program.