

Undergraduate Research NSCI 2995/3995 MESSAGE TO FACULTY RESEARCH MENTOR

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a Faculty Research Mentor for a student conducting Undergraduate Research (NSCI 2995/3995) 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 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 copy of the proposal to the instructor of record. The proposals are due two days before the end of the Add/Drop period (although proposals will be accepted throughout the semester).

Undergraduate researchers may work closely with you on the project, or with a Postdoctoral Fellow or senior graduate student. The student should also make periodic contact with the Faculty Research Mentor to discuss progress, questions, and to receive guidance. Occasionally students work with a Faculty Research Mentor off campus (at a field site or during international study). These Mentors have a particular responsibility to assure that the student receives substantial academic benefit and conducts a scientific, conceptual study.

At completion of the research, students will prepare a paper in standard journal format under the supervision of the Faculty Research Mentor. 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. If the student takes a total of 6 credits of research, they are required to present a short talk, in addition to preparing a paper. This can be at a group lab meeting where they will get feedback from others, or at the Student Research Conference in the Spring semester.

The instructor of record will award the final grade based on your evaluation of the student's dedication to their research (most important!), the final paper, and the mini-seminar presentation (if required). 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.