Neuroscience

Assessment Plan for the PhD Program

Program Learning Outcomes
The Ph.D. program in Neuroscience will produce graduates who:

1. Have comprehensive knowledge of the factual information, theoretical principles, and methodological approaches in the core areas of molecular/cellular, systems, and behavioral Neuroscience. Are able to apply knowledge of these core areas to address complex problems in Neuroscience. Are able to conceptualize research projects and compose competitive grant proposals.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in the core course sequence NRSC 200A, NRSC 200B, NRSC 200C, NRSC 201, NRSC 287; written comprehensive examination that addresses relationships of core areas relating to the student’s research emphasis.

2. Are able to (1) critically read, understand, and evaluate scholarly literature; (2) integrate and synthesize ideas; (3) identify and evaluate novel and relevant research questions; (4) develop appropriate and effective research strategies; (5) communicate clearly and effectively.

   **Assessment Methods:** Qualifying Examination with written and oral components; oral component includes defense of research proposal fashioned after NIH grant submission guidelines; annual presentation of research progress in NRSC 289 (Spring Quarter); annual 2-credit seminars (NRSC 289, Fall Quarter). Regular lab meetings and journal clubs in laboratories of principal investigator supervisors.

3. Are able to (1) apply appropriate, responsible, and ethical research methods; (2) evaluate, analyze, and interpret evidence; (3) develop and sustain evidence-based arguments; (4) convey findings clearly and effectively; (5) identify broader implications of findings; (6) produce publishable results.

   **Assessment Methods:** Annual assessment by supervisory PI and guidance or dissertation committee; NRSC 289 (every Fall and Spring Quarter); qualifying examination, dissertation defense.

4. Are able to produce acceptable results within reasonable timeframes.

   **Assessment Methods:** Advancement to candidacy within 1 year of normative time of six quarters (2 years); degree conferral within 1 year of normative time of five years.

5. Are effective teachers.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in teaching practicum course; attainment of University Teaching Certificate Program (UTC) and Teaching Assistant Development Program (TADP); student teaching evaluations.
6. Are capable professionals.
   **Assessment Methods:** Conference presentations, fellowship and grant awards, publications, reviewer activities, job placement.

7. Are satisfied graduates.
   **Assessment Methods:** Exit interview.
Assessment Plan for the MS Program

Program Learning Outcomes

The M.S. program in Neuroscience will produce graduates who:

1. Have comprehensive knowledge of the factual information, theoretical principles, and methodological approaches in the core areas of molecular/cellular, systems, and behavioral Neuroscience. Are able to apply knowledge of these core areas to address complex problems in Neuroscience. Are able to conceptualize research projects and compose competitive grant proposals.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in the core course sequence NRSC 200A, NRSC 200B, NRSC 200C, NRSC 201, NRSC 287.

2. Are able to (1) critically read, understand, and evaluate scholarly literature; (2) integrate and synthesize ideas; (3) identify and evaluate novel and relevant research questions; (4) develop appropriate and effective research strategies; (5) communicate clearly and effectively.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Annual presentation of research progress in NRSC 289 (Spring Quarter); annual 2-credit seminars (NRSC 289, Fall Quarter). Regular lab meetings and journal clubs in laboratories of principal investigator supervisors.

3. Are able to (1) apply appropriate, responsible, and ethical research methods; (2) evaluate, analyze, and interpret evidence; (3) develop and sustain evidence-based arguments; (4) convey findings clearly and effectively; (5) identify broader implications of findings; (6) produce publishable results.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Annual assessment by supervisory PI and guidance or dissertation committee; NRSC 289 (every Fall and Spring Quarter); Thesis defense.

4. Are able to produce acceptable results within reasonable timeframes.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Degree conferral within 1 year of normative time of two years.

5. Are effective teachers.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in teaching practicum course; attainment of University Teaching Certificate Program (UTC) and Teaching Assistant Development Program (TADP); student teaching evaluations.

6. Are capable professionals.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Conference presentations, fellowship and grant awards, publications, reviewer activities, job placement.

7. Are satisfied graduates.
   
   **Assessment Methods:** Exit interview.