

ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



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TO: Susan Kalter, Chairperson, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee

RE: Executive Summary – Proposal from the School of Biological Sciences for a New Master of Science Sequence in Neuroscience and Physiology

The Graduate Curriculum Committee approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal to add a new M.S. Sequence in Neuroscience and Physiology.

The School of Biological Sciences provided the following rationale for adding this new sequence:

- The primary motivation for proposing a M.S. sequence in Neuroscience and Physiology is that master's students in the School of Biological Sciences studying in these two fields have striking unmet curricular needs. Currently, while there are five M.S. Sequences in the School, none offer the canonical conceptual grounding required for master's students wishing to pursue graduate study in neuroscience and behavior. Simply put, neuroscience and behavior are profoundly different areas than those served by the other sequences, and a separate and dedicated Sequence in Neuroscience and Behavior is necessary to best meet the needs of master's students interested in studying neuroscience and physiology.
- Secondary motivations for proposing a M.S. sequence in Neuroscience and Behavior are the desire to instill a sense of belonging to a cohort among master's students interested in studying neuroscience and behavior and a device to enhance master's student recruitment.

The proposed M.S. Sequence in Neuroscience and Behavior will not affect other existing campus programs. The School anticipates that the creation of the Sequence will help to attract a modest number (1-2 per year) of high quality M.S. students to the School of Biological Sciences' graduate program. The program has the capacity to accept these additional students.

The proposed M.S. Sequence in Neuroscience and Physiology will require the addition of two new courses at the 400 level, BSC 430 Neuroscience (3 hours) and BSC 435 Mammalian Physiology (3 hours). These two courses will form the core of the proposed sequence along with Biostatistics (BSC 490 and 420.27).

The Graduate Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add this new sequence.

Attachments