



Associate Professor Brad Steinmetz
Chair, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

Dear Professor Steinmetz and Members of the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee,

On December 15, 2022, the ASCC's Social and Behavioral Sciences Panel reviewed and unanimously approved with contingencies a proposal for changes to the undergraduate neuroscience program. There are two proposed changes to the neuroscience program: 1) establishment of a 33-credit hour major that incorporated the new embedded literacies, and 2) implementation of a minimum grade requirement for the Neuroscience Honors Survey Course (Neurosc 1100H).

The current neuroscience program consists of 36-credit hours of coursework across five categories. The proposed change reduces the total number of credit hours for the major from 36 to 33 across six categories including: (1) the survey course, (2) four core courses, (3) one data analysis course, (4) four specialization courses, (5) one breadth course, and (6) one advanced writing course. The reduction in credit hours was accomplished by reducing the course requirements for the specialization and breadth categories. In addition, the 33-credit hour major was designed to incorporate the new GE requirements (e.g., the advanced writing course). The proposed change to the major will bring the total number of credits in-line with other STEM majors (e.g., biology, microbiology, molecular genetics) which are credit 30-credit hour programs. Students on the current 36-hour curriculum may petition to transition to the 33-credit hour curriculum, which will be managed by their Neuroscience Academic Advisor.

The second proposed change to the major is the implementation of a minimum grade requirement of a B or better for the survey course. The rationale for this change was, in part, to set the expectation that strong performance in the class is necessary for success in the major. Students are able to build connections with their academic advisors in this course, and are able to retake the course if necessary.

All contingencies have been met. Therefore, we advance the proposal for the change to the undergraduate neuroscience program to the Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee with a motion to approve.

Sincerely,

Christina M. Roup, Ph.D.
Associate Professor