Neuroscience Undergraduate Research

❖ Why should I do undergraduate research in neuroscience?

- Explore the latest discoveries in the field of neuroscience in a new and exciting way.
- Use research as a way to prepare for graduate or medical school, or learn skills for the workforce.
- Get to know faculty, researchers, graduate students, and other undergraduates who share similar academic and career interests. Developing these connections can help you get strong reference letters.

❖ When should I start doing research?

- We recommend you start looking for a research lab as early as the end of your freshman year. The longer you spend in the lab, the more likely you will obtain useful career skills and strong letters of reference.

❖ Can I get paid for research? What about course credit?

- Some labs may have funds available to pay undergraduate researchers, and you can also do undergraduate research if you receive Work Study. In the likely case that a lab cannot pay you, you can receive course credit. **Neuroscience 699 (4998 on semesters)** is the course number for undergraduate research in neuroscience.

❖ Is Neuroscience 699/4998 required for the Neuroscience major?

- It is **not** required for the Neuroscience major, but up to 3 credits of Neuroscience 699 can count toward one of your Breadth Requirements.

❖ What are the pre-requisites for Neuroscience 699/4998?

- Permission of the instructor (professor running the lab). Check out the website for specific requirements for each lab, or talk to the instructor for information on specific expectations.

❖ How many credit hours is Neuroscience 699/4998?

- Typically, students often take 2 to 4 credit hours of Neuroscience 699 per term.
- Credit hours are variable depending on the nature of the project and the time commitment of students, and should be discussed with your research advisor.
    - On Quarters: For each credit hour of 699 you must commit to 3 hours per week in the lab.
    - On Semesters: For each credit hour of 4998 you must commit to 6 hours per week in the lab.
- A maximum of 3 hours of Neuroscience 699/4998 can be applied towards the Neuroscience major Breadth Requirement. However, students can take additional hours of Neuroscience 699 towards their credit hours for graduation.

❖ How do I find research opportunities?

- Look for listings on our website and check the latest edition of Neuro News for listings. Pay attention to announcements in class and keep an eye out for posters around campus.
- Talk to your professors about their research. Maybe they have an opening in their lab!
- Browse the faculty listings on the neuroscience graduate website at http://ngsp.osu.edu/3494.cfm to see which professors are researching areas you are interested in. You can then contact them to discuss research opportunities using the **Etiquette Tips** below.

❖ Etiquette Tips: Is there anything specific I need to do or say when asking about research opportunities?

- **YES**. Etiquette is very important. Do your homework before you shoot off an e-mail! You should know about what kind of research the lab does. For instance, check out publications that the faculty member has before contacting the lab.

- **DO NOT** write

  "*Hey, I'm interested in doing research in your lab. Do you have any openings? Thanks."*

  Your e-mail will most likely be ignored.

- **DO** write something like:

  "*Hello, Professor* (his/her name)*, My name is* (your name), *and I am interested in the research done in your lab and was contacting you about current opportunities in your lab* (mention the listing you are responding to, if applicable). *What interests me most about your research is* (name a few items here you find interesting about their research and explain why you are interested in them). *I have read some articles in your research area* (cite names of relevant articles you have read on the subject) *and so your research investigation really intrigues me. I would like to be able to contribute to your project in any way I can. I am in my* (what year). *I have taken* (discuss coursework that is relevant to the lab, particularly statistics and neuroscience coursework). *I am hard-working, dependable, responsible, flexible, and willing to work* (how many) *quarters/hours in your lab if selected. Would you be willing and able to meet with me and discuss your research further? I am available* (name specific days and times you are available – give a range). *I can be reached at* (your phone and e-mail contacts). *Thank you for your time. Sincerely,* (your name)"

- **Note:** Use the above as a format, but also try to set yourself apart. Bring up your unique experiences and traits that can help you contribute to the lab.

❖ How do I register for Neuroscience 699/4998 after I have been accepted?

- If you are accepted into a research lab, you can then negotiate your working hours and responsibilities directly with the professor or graduate student.

- You will need to bring a Course Enrollment form for the instructor to sign. Course Enrollment forms are available online at the Registrar's Office website under Current Students/On-line Forms. You will need to ask the Neuroscience 699/4998 instructor or your Neuroscience advisor for the unpublished enrollment number. Take the completed form to the College of Arts and Sciences in Denney Hall (non-honors) or Enarson Hall (honors).