The following presentation is supplemental to information provided by the Office of Undergraduate Research, tailored to Neuroscience researchers.
A few extra general points
Also see resources from Office of Undergraduate Research

The Search
Keep an open mind – specific topic not critical at this stage
Do choose your level of inquiry: Pipettes? Electrodes? Human/animal behavior? EEGs?
Chicago adds commute – consider whether you can use shuttle time effectively
Be patient – budget a quarter to look around, interview, shadow, choose
Look once you have time to devote to research – minimum 10 hours per week

The first email to the faculty member
Faculty time is precious
Keep email short and professional but specifically tailored to them
Do not email many faculty members at once
Do mention that you are interested in undergraduate research (many Neuro professors will not respond to
genral “I want to chat” email

The meeting
Be naturally curious
If it goes well, ask if you can attend lab meeting or “shadow for a day so a potential mentor and I could get to
know each other”

The choice
It is a commitment – choose wisely
Choose good mentorship over topic (somewhere between being babied and being ignored)

The work
Their primary mission is to get something done, not to train you
Work hard to prove yourself; be resilient, energetic, and respectful of the opportunity
Neuroscience-specific information on finding mentors
Additional resources from Office of Undergraduate Research

• Try NUIN!
  • [http://www.nuin.northwestern.edu/](http://www.nuin.northwestern.edu/)
  • Comprehensive but may be overwhelming and not all accept undergrads

• Departmental websites:
  • Neurobiology, Psychology, Molecular Biosciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Linguistics, Biomedical Engineering, Physiology, Neurology, Psychiatry, many others...
  • not professors emeritus

• List of labs on the Neuroscience website
  • [https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/Neuroscience%20Research%20Labs.html](https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/Neuroscience%20Research%20Labs.html)
  • Not comprehensive; these are some labs that have taken undergrads or expressed interest

• Synaptic Connections Dinner – all Neuro majors invited (usually in April)
• You may make an appointment with Dr. Kilman for guidance
  • neuroscience@u.northwestern.edu
Neuroscience-specific information

Course credit

• **NEUROSCI 399: Independent research**
  • Up to 9 credits toward graduation
  • 1 credit per quarter
  • 10 hours per week minimum, enrollment instructions on website
  • [https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/neurosci-399.html](https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/neurosci-399.html)

• **NEUROSCI 398:**
  • seniors writing an honors thesis only
  • [https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/honors.html](https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/honors.html)

• Check with Dr. Kilman if you are unsure as to whether the research is “Neuro”
Opportunities for Neuroscience majors once you have begun research:

• Neuroscience summer research grant (apply in May)

• Summer research symposium in August (apply in late July)

• NEURON: program of enhanced training, mentoring, and funding opportunities for selected students with strong focus on research (watch website – maybe June?)

• Neuroscience honors in the major (email DUS spring of junior year)

• [https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/](https://www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/Research%20Opportunities/)