

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 general “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

Graduate program in Neuroscience!
Post-bac opportunities too!

- Try NUIN!
 - <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>
 - 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>
- NEUROSCI 398:
 - seniors writing an honors thesis only
 - <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”

Neuroscience-specific information

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/>