The Neuroscience Studies Major
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Neuroscience at Macalester: A brief history
- Stand-alone Major in neuroscience added in 1994
- 2 Tracks: Cell/Molecular and Behavioral
- Cell/Molecular absorbed by Biology 1999
- New major in Neuroscience Studies added 2000, replacing neuroscience curriculum

Macalester College
- National Liberal Arts College
- 1800+ student body
- 35 majors
- Most popular: Political Science, Economics, Psychology, History, Biology

Neuroscience Studies
- Intentionally broad interdisciplinary liberal arts curriculum.
- Draws from psychology, biology, chemistry, math, computing, and philosophy for core content.
- 3 main curricular features: foundation courses, core courses, and focused emphases.
Foundation Courses

All students are required to take:
- General Chemistry 1 and 2
- Cell Biology
- Genetics
- Computer Science (Intro level, 3 options)
- Statistics

Core Coursework

- Introductory Neuroscience
- Behavioral Neuroscience w/lab
- Philosophy of Mind
- Cell Biology/Genetics Laboratory
- Artificial Intelligence
  - Or
- Scientific Computation
- Directed Research in Neuroscience
- Senior Seminar – 2 semesters

Emphases

- Disciplinary coursework chosen to provide theoretical and methodological depth in particular approaches to the study of neuroscience.
- May be satisfied by established paths in Psychology, Philosophy, Computing Science or Mathematics

Or

- By use of an approved co-major or minor, such as in biology, chemistry, etc.
- Directed Research project intersects emphasis with neuroscience methods

Outcomes

- Alumni Survey conducted every 2 years since the inception of the program.
- ~50% of alumni enter post-bac training (i.e., graduate school, medical school) within 2 years of graduation; +70% within 4 years. Majority of remainder employed in allied fields.
- Alumni report high level of satisfaction with major across all years surveyed to date.
- Some early alumni of the program are now faculty at institutions across the US.