

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Psychology

CREDIT UNIT STATEMENT

Bachelor of Social Sciences-Neuroscience (Multi-disciplinary Major & Minor)

Courses for the neuroscience programme are offered by different Faculties/Departments, and so will vary greatly. Most neuroscience core and elective courses in the programme involve a mix of lectures (2 hours per week) and tutorials (4-12 per semester). Contact hours ranging from 28 to 39. Each 6-credit course requires about 120-180 student workload hours. The types of classes in the major are as follows:

1. Introductory course (6 credits)

This course is compulsory for all students majoring in neuroscience, and generally has a large enrolment (250-350 students). Students receive a survey of all major areas of psychological research, to gain an orientation to the field. Assessment may include essays (1250-2500 words), tutorial performance, assignments, projects, presentations, research participation and tests (100% coursework)

2. Core disciplinary courses (6 credits)

These are standard 6-credit advanced courses. Students will take classes in which the predominant pedagogical mode is lecturing. Students in each course cover a mixture of historically significant findings along with cutting-edge reports. Assessment includes laboratory reports and essays (1000-4000 words), class participation, personal reflection and in-class tests (100% coursework).

3. Seminar course (6 credits)

In this course, students read primary source research articles, present seminars to the class, and conduct research projects or write research proposals. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Enrolment is generally about 25-30 students. Assessment is achieved through performance in class discussion, short essays (1500-2500 words), in-class quizzes, and group presentation (100% coursework)

4. Elective disciplinary courses (6 credits)

These courses are similar in form to the core disciplinary courses, but generally cover more specialist areas in neuroscience. Some elective courses are offered by other faculties/departments, e.g. Animal physiology, Human Genetics and Medical imaging. Assessment includes class participation, in-class tests, essays/written report (1500-2500 words), presentation, examination (0%-100% coursework, 0-100% exam).

5. Research internship (6 credits)

Students may enroll in an internship course to learn to do research as an intern in ongoing empirical research projects in the Department of Psychology and/or other course contributing departments/faculties. Students spend 10-12 hours per week assisting various research activities, and meet regularly with the instructor to discuss different aspects of the research that they are engaged in. Assessment takes the form of one to two written reports (1500-2500 words) and supervisor's assessment of the quality of research assistance (100% coursework).

6. Research courses: Capstone (6 credits)

These courses are under the category of Capstone Experience. Every major student must complete a capstone project in neuroscience under supervision of an instructor or one advanced lab course, in which instructors apply the students' research methods training to a substantive area of Psychological research. For capstone project in neuroscience, students must design a research study in one area of neuroscience, collect and analyse data if appropriate, and submit a report (5000-10,000 words). For advanced lab course, students read primary source research articles, present seminars to the class, and conduct research projects or write research proposals. In addition, students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Enrolment is capped at 25-30 students. Assessment is achieved through performance in class discussions, written reports/proposals (1000-4000 words), seminar performance, and quizzes. (100% coursework)

7. Thesis in neuroscience (12 credits)

The thesis may be taken by major students as an elective course. Students need the permission of the Head of Department to take the course. It is restricted to students who have a clear plan for a research study. Students take this course over two semesters, for a total of 12 credits. Students must design an empirical research study, collect and analyse data, and write a research report (6,000-10,000 words) and should meet their supervisors on a regular basis (about 24 supervision hours). Students are expected to spend much of their time on individual research and writing. This course requires about 240-360 hours of learning. (100% coursework)

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