About the Major

The Bachelor’s of Science degree in Neuroscience is interdisciplinary - primarily a mix of psychology and biology, with strong components of chemistry, physics, and math. Neuroscience is a rapidly advancing field that addresses the structure and function of the nervous system, with particular focus on the intersection between the brain and behavior. With a unique learning environment including cross-disciplinary research, the program is rigorous and innovative. Coursework includes study of the biological, behavioral, chemical, and physical sciences that culminates in a capstone research experience.

Sample Coursework

- Organic Chemistry
- Introduction to Psychology
- Genetics and Molecular Biology
- Systems Neuroscience
- Experimental Chemistry
- Cellular & Molecular Neuroscience
- Brain Mechanisms of Behavior

Possible Career Opportunities

- Research Technician
- Clinical Research Assistant
- Genetic Counselor
- Epidemiology
- Neuropsychologist

Where Could I Work?

- Biotechnology/Pharmaceutical Companies
- Hospitals and medical centers
- Government laboratories or agencies
- Private research foundations
- Universities

Employment and Graduate School Information

Employment Outlook

Many undergraduate neuroscience majors will pursue graduate and professional degrees that would culminate in careers in science and medicine. However, students with baccalaureate degrees are expected to successfully compete for public or private sector neuroscience-related positions.

Salary Expectations

Employment will increase between the years 2014 and 2024 by 8% for both medical scientists and biological scientists. As of May 2014, the median annual salary was $79,930 for medical scientists and $75,080 for biological scientists employed in scientific research and development. Physicians and surgeons will remain in high demand, with annual salaries over $185,000 per year. These occupations typically require doctoral or professional degrees.

For those with a bachelor’s degree, biological technician positions are expected to increase by 5%, as fast as the average for all occupations. Applicants who have laboratory experience, either through coursework or prior work experience, will have the best opportunities. In May, 2014, the median annual wage for biological technicians was $41,290.

(This section is intended for informational purposes, not prediction of actual salary. Salary information is based on national salary ranges which are greatly impacted by location and relative cost of living.)

Graduate/Professional School Opportunities

The program provides excellent preparation for medical school, especially when combining clinical practice and basic research. Majoring in integrative neuroscience also provides a good background for master’s or PhD programs in many disciplines such as neuroscience, anatomy, physiology, and pharmacology.

Where Can I Get More Information?

Purdue School of Science, Department of Psychology Office:
LD 123 (Advising Office)
Phone: (317)274-6765
www.neuroscience.iupui.edu

American Academy of Neurology
www.aan.com

Society for Neuroscience
www.sfn.org

Interest Code

Realistic  Investigative  Enterprising