



Board of Regents
University System of Ohio

John R. Kasich, Governor
John Carey, Chancellor

INITIAL INQUIRY FORM REQUEST TO OFFER A NEW PROGRAM

Date of submission: 1 July 2015

Name of institution: Kent State University

Primary institutional contact for this request:

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Name of new program: Neuroscience major within the Bachelor of Science degree

For institutions that are already approved/authorized by the chancellor

- ☐ New degree designation
- ☒ New program within an existing degree (e.g., major, minor, concentration)
- ☐ New technical certificate program
- ☐ New licensure/endorsement area (educator preparation)

Delivery options (check all that apply):

- ☒ Campus-based
- ☐ Online/hybrid delivery
- ☐ Flexible or accelerated delivery
- ☐ Offering the program at a new offsite location
- ☐ Offering the program at an existing offsite location
- ☐ Program contains off-campus experiences (e.g., internship, clinical, practicum, student teaching)

The institution will be seeking specialized accreditation for the program:

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes

Provide a brief description of the request.

Neuroscience is inherently an interdisciplinary science that includes physics, physiology, chemistry, psychology and cell/molecular biology. As a discipline, neuroscience employs a broad range of experimental approaches and many different cell, tissue and animal model systems, and includes a significant focus on human cognitive, emotional and neurological functions.

Due to the importance of cross-disciplinary collaborations and the many unanswered questions in the field, neuroscience is an opportunity-rich area in which to pursue a scientific career. An undergraduate degree in neuroscience can provide the foundation for advanced careers in many industries—including pharmaceutical, medicine, biotechnology, bioengineering—and research in the government sector, private sector, hospitals and universities. It also provides the basis for other careers that intersect with neuroscience such as patent law and biomedical engineering. Furthermore, graduates in the program will be well prepared for further educational paths that incorporate backgrounds in both biological and psychological sciences, including medicine, clinical psychology and master's- and doctoral-level research degrees.

Explain the academic unit's rationale for making the request.

The proposed degree program will jointly administered by the Department of Biological Sciences and the Department of Psychological Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State.

Over the past several years, Kent State has been making a substantial financial investment in the study of neuroscience, as reflected by (1) recent coordinated hiring of faculty members in the two departments; (2) previous hires of neuroscientists; (3) establishment, in 2013, of an annual Neuroscience Research Symposium; and (4) planned renovations to the science facilities on the Kent Campus that will significantly enhance the university's ability to engage in top-level neuroscience research. Kent State's neuroscience faculty are active in research, with most having received federal funding, and are committed to providing undergraduates with "hands-on" laboratory experiences.

Kent State University has existing state-of-the-art facilities for the study of neuroscience and offers undergraduate courses in the discipline (through the biology and psychology departments). The courses include (but are not limited to) the following:

Abnormal Psychology	Biopsychology	Hormones and Behavior
Animal Behavior	Cognitive Neuroscience	Introduction to Neuroscience
Animal Cognition	Drugs and Behavior	Perception
Biological Clocks	Endocrinology	

Recently, a large increase in enrollment in neuroscience-related coursework has suggested that there is an untapped and significant student demand for a neuroscience major. In addition, the college has surveyed current students, and those surveys indicate substantial demand for a neuroscience major. Anecdotal comments from undergraduate students suggest that many students are choosing Kent State because of its strength in the area of neuroscience.

The College of Arts and Sciences offers a master's and doctoral degree in Biomedical Sciences–Neurosciences and provides a neuroscience education for undergraduates through the degree programs in biology and psychology. However, the college lacks a defined framework that leads to a fully integrated undergraduate degree program in neuroscience. Further, as there are no undergraduate programs in neuroscience at any public institution in Northeast Ohio, Kent State University is in an excellent position to directly recruit students interested in neuroscience and provide them with a unique training opportunity.

Indicate whether additional faculty and staff will be needed to support the proposed request.

The college does not anticipate requiring additional faculty and staff to support the proposed major. Should there be substantial growth in enrollment, the Department of Biological Sciences and Department of Psychological Sciences will incorporate faculty resources into future hiring plans. Administrative services for the program will be handled by the two departments, with advising support from the college. Once enrollment has begun in the program, faculty advisors will be assigned as needed by these two departments.

Indicate whether additional resources (e.g., facilities, technology) will be needed to support the proposed request.

The departments anticipate the creation of at least one new laboratory course, which will be supported by a student course fee, as well as through the normal funding process of the participating departments.