PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NEUROSCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAM
IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2014-
2016 or LAW SCHOOL CATALOG 2014-2016

Type of Change

X Academic Change

Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST
CONSULT NEAL ARMSTRONG TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.

• Is this a new degree program? Yes___ No_X__

• Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes___ No_X__

• Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes___ No__X__

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH
INDIVIDUAL CHANGE (include page numbers in the catalog where changes will be made):

1. Option 1

Admissions to the major

Rationale: The Department of Neuroscience proposes selective admission to the B.S. in Neuroscience program. The program is research intensive, requiring 4 upper-division laboratory courses and at least 3 hours of independent research in a faculty laboratory. The laboratory courses and research laboratories will be unable to accommodate the number of students who have expressed interest in the program. The Department can offer only 4 upper-division laboratory courses, which accommodate approximately 180 students per year. In addition to serving the B.S. in Neuroscience program, these courses are available to B.S. Biology/Neurobiology majors, who number over 400. The laboratory courses are consistently wait-listed. Selective admissions will enable the Department to allocate seats to the students who are best positioned to benefit from these rigorous advanced courses. Students who are denied may reapply up to two times. The admissions criteria enable students to apply for admission as early as the end of the first year. Students who are not admitted can enter the B.S.A. Neuroscience program with no loss of credit hours, or they can enter the B.S. Biology/Neurobiology program with the loss of not more than one or two courses.

3. SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE

a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes___ No_X__

If yes, then how?

b. Will students in other degree programs be impacted (are the proposed changes to courses commonly taken by students in other colleges)? Yes___ No__X__

If yes, then how?

c. Will students from your college take courses in other colleges?

If 3 a, b, or c was answered with yes:

How many students do you expect to be impacted?

Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:

Person communicated with:

Date of communication:

Response:

d. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? If yes, explain: No.

If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:

e. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? If yes, explain: No.

4. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS
Department approval date: September 15, 2013
College approval date:
Dean approval date:

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, Option I

Prior to applying for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, option I, degree program, the student must earn grades of at least B- in Neuroscience 330 or Biology 365R, and Neuroscience 335. Neuroscience 330 or Biology 365R, and Neuroscience 335 must be taken in residence. The student must also complete any of the four following courses, with grades of at least C-: Biology 311C, 311D, 315H, and 325H; Chemistry 301, 301H, 302, 302H, and 204; Mathematics 408C, 408D, 408N, 408M, 427K, and 427L; and Physics 301, 316, 303K, 303L, 317K, and 317L. To be competitive for admission, the student should have a combined grade point average of at least 3.0 in the six courses required for admission. Entry-level majors are encouraged to take Neuroscience 330 in the fall of their first year, and Neuroscience 335 in the spring of their first year.

To apply, the student should consult advisers in the Center for First-Year Advising for information about the application process and deadlines. Applications are evaluated after the end of each fall and spring semester by the Department of Neuroscience. Students whose applications are denied may reapply twice through the supplemental admission process. Admission decisions are based on a number of factors including but not limited to the student’s grade point average, course load difficulty, and written statement about their commitment to a future in the field of neuroscience.
1 See http://www.utexas.edu/provost/planning/cat_change/UnderGrad.html for detailed explanations.
2 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.
3 The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html. Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use “track changes”! For questions on completing this section, please contact Anita Ahmadi, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5936 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.