



# Program Approval Form

For approval of new programs and deletions or modifications to an existing program.

**Action Requested:**

- Create New (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
- Inactivate Existing
- Modify Existing (check ALL that apply)
  - Title (SCHEV approval required except for minors)
  - Concentration (Choose one):
    - Add
    - Delete
    - Modify
  - Degree Requirements
  - Admission Standards/ Application Requirements
  - Other Changes: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type (Check one):**

- B.A.
- B.S.
- Minor
- Master's
- Ph.D.
- Undergraduate Certificate\*
- Graduate Certificate\*
- Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's
- Other:

College/School:  Department:   
 Submitted by:  Ext:  Email:

Effective Term: Fall  **Please note:** For students to be admitted to a new degree, minor, certificate or concentration, the program must be fully approved, entered into Banner, and published in the University Catalog.

**Justification:** (attach separate document if necessary)

**Program Title:** (Required)  
 Title must identify subject matter. Do not include name of college/school/dept.

**Concentration(s):**

**Admissions Standards / Application Requirements:** (Required only if different from those listed in the University Catalog)

**Degree Requirements:**  
 Consult University Catalog for models, attach separate document if necessary using track changes for modifications

**Courses offered via distance:** (if applicable)

**TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED:**

Existing	New/Modified
BA & BS Psychology	
	Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Concentration
	NA
	Please see attachment.
	Sections offered online will vary by semester and availability.
	14

\*For Certificates Only: Indicate whether students are able to pursue on a  Full-time basis  Part-time basis

**Approval Signatures**

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ *Shannon W. [Signature]* College/School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If this program may impact another unit or is in collaboration with another unit at Mason, the originating department must circulate this proposal for review by those units and obtain the necessary signatures prior to submission. Failure to do so will delay action on this proposal.

Unit Name	Unit Approval Name	Unit Approver's Signature	Date

**For Undergraduate Programs only**

Undergraduate Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ Provost Office \_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate Council Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

**For Graduate Programs Only**

Graduate Council Member \_\_\_\_\_ Provost Office \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Council Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Proposal:

To Whom It May Concern:

Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience Rationale:

Goal 1 of the GMU Strategic Plan 2014-2024 states "Provide opportunities for experiential and integrative learning in all programs". In addition, APA guidelines for undergraduate majors states that students should be able to "Identify key characteristics of major content domains in psychology (e.g., cognition and learning, developmental, biological, and sociocultural)."

Thus, the proposed concentration (for psychology majors) brings together neuroscience and psychology courses that focus on laboratory experience (required and elective) in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience and more in-depth courses of interest that will broaden the students' knowledge in understanding brain and behavior (specifically but not exclusively cognitive and biological). This knowledge can be better integrated with traditional psychology courses and enhance scholarly and integrative educational pursuits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vanessa Schroeder  
Undergraduate Coordinator for Psychology  
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x3-1759

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## Catalog Language:

### **Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience concentration (14 credits)**

This concentration focuses on laboratory experience in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience and more in-depth courses of interest that will broaden the students' knowledge in understanding brain and behavior.

Students must earn a minimum GPA of 3.00 in all coursework applied to the concentration.

Students who successfully complete the Psychology Department Honors Program (PSYC 490, 491, and 492) with an honors thesis/project focused on Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience may, with approval of their thesis committees and the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, substitute their honors work for one course in the concentration. Specific requirements for the concentration are listed below.

#### **Required Psychology courses (5 credits)**

PSYC 373 – Physiological Psychology Lab - Credits: 1  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc373>

PSYC 304 – Principles of Learning - Credits: 4  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc304>

**Psychology electives (9 credits or more) from the following:**

**PYC 309 – Sensation, Perception and Information Processing/writing intensive lab - Credits: 4**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/1514>

**PSYC 460 – Independent Study (Special permission required by a CBN faculty member) Credits: 1-3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc460>

**Psychology 480 – Biological Bases of Alzheimer’s Disease - Credits: 3**

**PSYC 490-492: Honors in Psychology (Must be accepted and complete the Program to receive credit)**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc492>

**PSYC 472: Current Topics in Brain and Behavior: Any of the following courses or courses approved by the undergraduate associate chair:**

**Neuronal Bases of Learning and Memory - Credits: 3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc472>

**Drugs and the Brain – Credits: 3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc472>

**Brain in Books and Film (1-3 credits)**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc472>

**PSYC 461 – Special Topics: Any of the following courses or courses approved by the undergraduate associate chair:**

**Music and the Brain – Credits: 3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc461>

**Neuronal Aspects of Cognitive Development – Credits: 3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc461>

**Animal Cognition – Credits: 3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc461>

**Psychology of Stress and Health - Credits: 3**  
<https://psychology.gmu.edu/courses/psyc461>