



Interdisciplinary Program in **Neuroscience**

2026 Freshman Student Orientation

Welcome! We will be with you shortly...



Introductions

- Who we are...
- Where to get help and information
 - <https://cos.gmu.edu/neuroscience>
 - neurosci@gmu.edu
 - All advising is online in Zoom until further notice. Limited in person advising will be available.
 - Appointments scheduled through **Patriot Connect**, the link to the advisor's personal Zoom room will be sent in your appointment confirmation email.
 - Three advisors: Dr. Guerriero, Dr. Herin, and Dr. Sinclair
 - Twitter: @MasonNeuro
 - Instagram: @masonneuroscience

Pre-health Resources

- Prehealth.gmu.edu
 - Go to resources, explore and get on list serv
- email prehlth@gmu.edu
- speak to major advisor and pre-health advisor ASAP



Transfer Credit Policy and Resolving Issues

- Information: www.gmu.edu/transfer/credits
Must have transcripts and AP/IB scores sent within 1 year
- Use the Transfer matrix
- Inquiry form and re-evaluation form (scroll to bottom of page)

Transfer Credit Inquiry Form

Use the [Transfer Credit Inquiry Form](#) if you believe eligible transfer credits are missing from your evaluation. This includes credit-by-exam such as AP, IB or CLEP.

Before submitting this form, be sure you have requested that official, final transcripts be sent from the Registrar at your previous institution to Mason's Office of Admissions, or electronically to ugtrans@gmu.edu, and that you have read and understood the criteria for credit acceptance.

A maximum of 90 total undergraduate transfer credits will be accepted. No more than 75 credits may be transferred in from two-year institutions or credit-by-exam programs.

Transfer Credit Re-Evaluation Appeal Form

Use the [Transfer Credit Re-Evaluation Appeal Form](#) if you were awarded elective credit for a course and wish to have it re-evaluated by the academic unit to transfer in as a specific George Mason course.

To appeal, please follow these steps:

- Fill out the first page of the form
- Send the entire form and any supporting documents, such as syllabi, to the Director/Chair of Undergraduate Programs/Studies at the academic unit from which you are requesting credit (ex. if you are requesting a History course, go to the George Mason History Department web page and look up the Director of Undergraduate Programs under "Directory" or "Contact Us".)
- The academic department will evaluate the appeal request and make

Study Abroad: Neuroscience & Technology in Germany

- Faculty-led program runs even year summers (Summer 2026, 2028 etc) with Dr. Greta Ann Herin
- About 5 weeks with three stops in Frankfurt, Berlin, and Munich where students visit world renowned universities and research institutes, learn about current research and chat directly with scientists.
 - 2 courses/6 credits that will satisfy the Mason Global Contexts Core and the Synthesis/Apex Core as well as major electives
- Eligibility: minimum gpa 2.75 and coursework in BIOL, PSYC and NEUR.
- Applications due in early Spring semester.

What classes do I take?

- Please review the “Registration” section in your neuroscience orientation packet
 - 12-15 credits
- Check your Degree Audit (don't forget the Mason Core!)
- Review curriculum
 - Official curriculum in the catalog (catalog.gmu.edu)

Biology

- **BIOL 103 Intro to Biology:** if you do not have credit for BIOL 103 or equivalent.
- **BIOL 213/215 Cell Structure & Function + lab:** if you have AP/IB or Dual Enrollment credit for the BIOL 103 equivalent and have taken some chemistry (including CHEM in high school)

Chemistry

- **CHEM 101 Intro to Modern Chemistry:** if you have no background in Chemistry from high school.
- **CHEM 211/213 General Chemistry I + lab:** if you have no chemistry credit
- **CHEM 212/214 General Chemistry II + lab:** if you have transfer credit for CHEM 211/213 Gen Chemistry I + lab

Psychology

- **PSYC 100 Intro to Psychology:** if you do not have credit for Intro to Psychology

Math or Statistics

- Calculus is required for the program: MATH 113 or MATH 123 & 124.
- MATH 105 Precalculus is a pre-requisite for MATH 113 or MATH 123.
- Unless you have AP/IB or dual enrollment credit for calculus, you will be required to take the Math Placement Test. Please see instructions on the Math Department website: <https://science.gmu.edu/academics/departments-units/mathematical-sciences/mathematical-sciences-testing-center>
- Or, take statistics: STAT 250, BIOL 214, PSYC 300, MATH 352.
 - STAT 250 Intro to Statistics or BIOL 214 Biostatistics recommended for pre-health students.

NEUR 101

- Not required
- Will count as an elective as long as it is taken BEFORE PSYC or NEUR 300 level courses.

UNIV 100 Introduction to Mason

- 1 credit
- Great way to get familiarized with Mason resources and find a community of students

Mason Core or Neuroscience Electives

- Please consult your packet, the catalog and an advisor to determine the best options.
- 22 credits of electives allow students to tailor their program to their interests (Psychology, Biology, Math etc)

Research Opportunities

- Research Assistantships
 - List of labs and centers in packet and on website
- Internships
 - George Mason Aspiring Scientists Summer Internship Program (ASSIP)
 - Mason Undergraduate Research Scholars Program (URSP)
 - Summer Internship applications are usually posted in late fall with application deadlines in late January/early February.
- Research and scholarship intensive courses
 - NEUR 405 and 407
- The Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research (OSCAR)

Honors in Neuroscience

- 3-semester program that culminates in the successful completion and presentation of an honors thesis, an independent research project
 - Semester 1: NEUR 411- Writing intensive course in neuroscience
 - Semester 2: NEUR 450: Honors Thesis Proposal
 - Semester 3: NEUR 451: Honors Thesis

Parting Advice

- Consult/meet with an advisor once a semester.
- Get to know your professors! Go to office hours!
- Don't take more than 2 lab classes per semester
 - Pre-health majors should take lab courses during the regular academic year (fall/spring)

Questions?

- neurosci@gmu.edu