

Wed, Aug 5, 2020 at 5:16 PM

With less than a month to go until the start of fall term classes on August 31, I want to give all returning neuroscience majors a status update as to where plans for the fall semester stand.

Four topics are covered in this message

- 1) Advising
- 2) Making changes to your fall term classes
- 3) Information for students planning to graduate in December 2020, May 2021 or August 2021
- 4) Information for students planning to submit an honors thesis, or non-honors senior thesis

1) Advising – Keith Wittkopp and I are doing all our advising remotely, and anticipate this will continue for the entire fall term. If you have a question you think can be answered in a sentence or two, please contact me ([rhume@umich.edu](mailto:rhume@umich.edu)) or Keith ([gambit@umich.edu](mailto:gambit@umich.edu)) by e-mail. If you think your question will require a more extended answer, it is best to make an advising appointment. There are plenty of open slots in August and beyond available through the [online scheduling site](#), but if none of the available times work with your schedule, contact us by email to arrange a meeting at a different time. We usually do these appointments with a videochat, but if your bandwidth is poor, we can do a phone call instead.

2) Making changes to your fall term classes – The revised plans for all fall term LSA classes should now be entered into the [LSA on-line course guide](#) as Online, Hybrid or In-person.

All courses in the neuroscience major that normally enroll 60 or more students in the same section (whether prerequisites, required courses or elective courses) have been changed to an on-line only format.

Many classes that enroll 30 or fewer students will remain in an in-person format or be offered in a hybrid format. This includes some discussion sections associated with courses that have large on-line lectures.

- a. If you are signed up for any in-person or hybrid classes that you know you will not be taking, please drop them now, so students who are comfortable taking in-person classes can be added from the waiting list.
- b. If you need help adding additional on-line only classes to rebuild your schedule, please reach out to me or to Keith. We expect that we will be able to develop plans that keep most or all students on schedule to graduate at the same time as they would have without the COVID19 disruption, but we may not be able to get you into your top fall term choices for alternative classes.
- c. At present there are no spaces available in any of the fall term classes taught by Psychology. We suspect that if you are not already on the waitlist, you probably will have difficulty getting a slot in any of them. Priority for any slots that open up will go to students graduating in December 2020.
- d. At present, there are spaces available in the following classes taught by MCDB faculty. All are on-line only except for MCDB 465
  - i. Required
    1. Biology 222
    2. Biology 305 Genetics
    3. MCDB 310 Biochemistry
  - ii. Area A elective
    1. MCDB 465 - Sensory Processing in the Neocortex (in person only)
  - iii. Area C electives
    1. MCDB 427 – Molecular Biology

2. MCDB 436 – Immunology

e. Only seniors with previous relevant experience are currently permitted to work in research labs, and they must also be granted permission by their PI. Once we are notified by the PI that a student meets these eligibility requirements, we can issue overrides into MCDB 360, Psych 326 and other research courses that usually require lab work.

We are still waiting for notification of when undergraduate students who are not seniors with substantial prior experience will be allowed to begin working in labs, and so are not currently issuing overrides for these students, unless their PI has come up with a project that can be done entirely at a distance.

3) Information for students planning to graduate in December 2020, May 2021 or August 2021 - In order for you to graduate, you must fill out the “Apply to graduate” link on Wolverine Access AND the UPiN office must submit a “major release form” that verifies that the courses you have completed plus the courses you plan to take in your senior year will finish the major.

a) December 2020 graduates- If you have not already obtained a release, please initiate the process of obtaining one before classes start on Monday August 31, so that if any problems are identified, you can modify your classes sufficiently early so that you can graduate on time. Most students should be able to complete this process on-line at: <http://lsa.umich.edu/neurosci/undergraduates/graduation-information.html>. If the on-line audit does not work, please contact Keith Wittkopp ([gambit@umich.edu](mailto:gambit@umich.edu)) to help you complete your audit.

b) May and August 2021 graduates – Please either i) plan to make an advising appointment in late October or in November so we can verify that the courses you intend to register for in the Winter term will complete the major or ii) do the on-line audit immediately after you register for Winter term classes, but prior to the start of the Winter term 2021.

4) Information for students planning to submit an honors thesis, or non-honors senior thesis

a. All students hoping to submit an honors thesis must apply for approval to do so, by providing the information requested at this link : [Neuroscience Thesis Application](#)

i. Detailed information about the thesis options is at this link: <https://lsa.umich.edu/neurosci/undergraduates/honors-program.html>

b. For students graduating by the end of summer term 2021, the deadline to apply to join the thesis versions of the major is Sep 21, 2020. We urge all students to apply before the start of classes on August 31.

c. For all other students, the recommended time to apply to join the honors major, or for permission to submit a non-honors senior thesis is January of your junior year, because that gives you the highest priority for summer research fellowships between your junior and senior years.

Wishing you the best for the upcoming semester,

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