ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

With its excellent reputation and award-winning faculty, Northwestern University is an ideal choice for graduate study. Its Department of Neurobiology is among the best-funded neuroscience departments in the country. Since it began in 1981, the department has advanced through significant discoveries, research publications, and faculty recognition from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, M. Keck, Klingenstein, McKnight, Searle, Alfred P. Sloan, W. Alden Spencer, and other distinguished foundations. Faculty members regularly publish in such prominent journals as Nature, Science, the Journal of Neuroscience, and Neuron. The department is home to the Center for Sleep and Circadian Biology, the Center for Reproductive Sciences, the Center for Functional Genomics, and the Biological Imaging Facility.

Our department is credited with major innovative educational programs within the university, educational outreach programs in the community, and widely acclaimed scientific advances, particularly at the interface between molecular biology, physiology, and behavior.

New discoveries will continue to emerge from the department, as our faculty continues to maintain exceptionally strong research programs. In addition to funding success, we hold a reputation for collegial collaborations within the department and with other departments in the university. These together create an exciting environment to learn and do research.

We carefully select our faculty, staff, students, and postdocs, evaluating their potential in both educational and research endeavors. As our department continues to develop, we add interests, advanced technology, and facilities. For instance, we intend to take a leading role in work on how genes affect whole-animal functioning and behavior, studies made possible by the advent of genome sequences for mice and humans. This is just one of the many exciting frontiers our faculty, postdocs, and students are exploring together. We invite you to join our endeavor.
The Master’s program in Neurobiology gives students the opportunity to earn a graduate degree in one year of intensive study through Northwestern’s accelerated MS program in neurobiology. The program prepares students for postgraduate study for careers in academic, medical, or industrial research.

The curriculum provides focused classroom instruction and independent hands-on research training. The required independent laboratory research project is generally completed in three to four quarters of study and culminates in a written thesis. Each entering student is matched with a research advisor whose area of study complements his or her own. In addition to research, students complete a set of core neuroscience courses and electives.

**Entrance Requirements**

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must hold a four-year undergraduate degree and have successfully completed the following coursework:

- one year of biology
- one year of chemistry
- one semester of organic chemistry
- one semester of physics
- one semester of calculus or advanced mathematics

In addition to the course requirements, the admissions committee looks for strong laboratory research experience of at least six months to a year.

Applications are accepted for fall admission only and are due March 31st.

To learn more, visit the department website at www.neurobiology.northwestern.edu
Research Requirements
It is strongly recommended that applicants have prior research experience, more than just a lab course or a two-week research project. It has been found that applicants who do not have significant prior research experience tend to have a difficult time completing the program in the one year timeframe. We ask for students to include a description about their research experiences in their application in the Statement of Purpose section.

Standardized test scores, such as the GRE and MCAT, are not required. However, we do ask that if an applicant has taken either of the two tests, they send their scores in to us.

The Application Process
The Graduate School requires that all applicants submit their materials online through The Graduate School Website. At this time, the program does not accept non-degree seeking students.

Completed applications should contain the following materials:
1. Completed Graduate School application form
2. The statement of purpose included in your application should outline the following:
   - career goals and how the MS degree fits in with them
   - past research experience
   - professors you are interested in working with on your research
3. Official transcripts from all academic institutions attended
4. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who are familiar with your academic and research achievements

Application Decisions
The application deadline for the Fall Quarter is March 31st. It is imperative to get all application materials (including transcripts and letters of recommendation) submitted before 5:00 p.m. on March 31st.

The department begins reviewing applications on April 1st. Applicants can expect a reply from the Graduate School by mid-May. The MS program currently only admits students for the Fall Quarter of each academic year.
Praise for the Master's Program

Recent Master's program alumni cited the program's competitiveness and the University's prestige as their top reasons for choosing Northwestern's MS in neurobiology program:

"As a PhD student, I have found that I am better prepared than other students who had years more experience in neuroscience."
--- Tim Requarth, PhD student at Columbia University

"One of the best skills I took away from the program is knowing how to evaluate primary literature. I have found it very beneficial in the first year of medical school."
--- Zach Clark, MD student at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

"I credit this program with helping me get an interview at every [medical school] I applied to."
--- James Leake, MD student at the University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio
PhD PROGRAMS

The Department of Neurobiology takes part in PhD programs of the Northwestern University Interdepartmental Program in Neuroscience (NUIN) and the Interdepartmental Biological Sciences Program (IBiS). Our graduates at all levels have gone on to distinguished careers in the life sciences.

NUIN
World-class advanced training in neuroscience is offered by the Northwestern University Interdepartmental Neuroscience (NUIN) PhD program. The program’s more than 150 investigators pursue a broad range of research goals, including understanding fundamental principles underlying normal nervous system function; understanding processes that lead to abnormal function and disease; and pursuing clinical and translational solutions as the basis for preventing, treating, and managing diseases of the nervous system. NUIN accepts qualified students from diverse backgrounds.

To learn more, visit nuin.northwestern.edu

IBiS
The Interdepartmental Biological Sciences (IBiS) program features interdisciplinary graduate training in the biological sciences. The PhD program brings together more than 60 faculty from six departments within Northwestern. It allows students to pursue innovative and interdisciplinary research in a broad spectrum of disciplines, including cell biology and genetics; cancer biology; biochemistry; biophysics and structural biology; development systems and stem cell biology; biotechnology, nanotechnology, and bioengineering; and chemistry of life processes, biological chemistry, and neuroscience.

To learn more, visit www.ibis.northwestern.edu