




College of Arts and Sciences

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29 July 2016

MEMO

TO: Kate Miller
Provost/VPAA

FROM: Paula M. Lutz 
Dean, Arts and Sciences

RE: Program Review for the M.S. in Neuroscience (interdisciplinary program in Neuroscience)—Dean’s recommendation

The M.S. in Neuroscience (within the interdisciplinary Neuroscience program) has produced seven graduates in four years (Fall 2009-Spring 2013). This degree was administered through the Ph.D. program in Neuroscience.

In 2010, the decision was made to stop admitting students to the M.S. Admissions are now only to the Ph.D. program. The M.S. is considered the “default” or fall back degree where for personal or professional reasons a student does not complete the Ph.D. requirements. There is no additional cost; there are no “masters-specific” courses. This program supports the Ph.D. and contributes to the flexibility of that program.

Based on the “default” nature of this program and its ‘no-cost,’ the Dean sees two possible paths here—maintain it in its present form or create a Neuroscience option or concentration within the M.S. in Zoology. It is the recommendation of the Dean that the latter path be taken.

Academic Program Review: Master’s Neuroscience (inactive)

1. Title of Program: Master’s in Neuroscience
2. Graduate program
3. Department and College: Interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program;
4. Department Head Name and contact information (phone, email): Bill Flynn, 6-6446, flynn@uwyo.edu
5. Program Productivity:

MASTER'S

Name	start	degree awarded	years to degree	Advisor	Dept	College
Mercy Adetoye	8-06	MS 8-09	3	Skinner	Z&P	A&S
Schamber	8-05	MS 8-08	3	Flynn	Z&P	A&S
Arik Smith	8-08	MS 8-10	2	Skinner	Z&P	A&S
Eileen Marks	8-08	MS 8-11	3	Fox	Vet Sci	Ag
Chen J	8-09	MS 12-12	3	Fox	Vet Sci	Ag
S. Khan	8-10	MS 12-13	3	Schatzl	Vet Sci	Ag
B. Surenhhuu	8-10	MS 12-13	3	Culver	Pharm	HS

N=7

6. The Master’s Program was/is a unit of the Doctoral Neuroscience Program. The Master’s Program has not admitted students since 2010. The last Master’s was awarded in 2013. The Master’s Degree track was terminated (~2012), students are no longer admitted, although the Master’s degree remains on the books. At this time there are 2 students enrolled as Off-campus Continuing students. The students are not actively involved with faculty nor are they taking courses, but have the ability to stay enrolled even though they are making no progress towards the degree. The students have completed the required coursework but have not written or defended a research thesis. Graduate Neuroscience Students are only admitted to the Doctoral Neuroscience Program. The Master’s Program remains as a “default” degree; it is inactive (not admitting students nor devoting either state or federal resources [Neuroscience Center] to the program. The Master’s degree fills a need. Students who are admitted into the Doctoral Program and have advanced in good standing, but for some reason (e.g. family, fail final dissertation defense) are not advanced to doctoral candidacy may petition for the Master’s Degree. This approach seemed fair to the student, particularly in cases where health issues have prevented the student from finishing the final PhD, but have otherwise met expectations for a Master’s Degree.
 - a. Program accreditation- not applicable

- b. Credentials of faculty- there are no neuroscience faculty who are specifically associated with the Master's. All of the Neuroscience faculty participating in the Doctoral Neuroscience Degree Program are PhD level, tenure track scientists.
- c. Program reputation- not applicable
- d. Curriculum of major or specialization- there is no longer a curriculum since the Master's Program is inactive.
- e. Distance delivery of program/major not applicable
- f. Quality of Assessment Plan/data
The Doctoral Neuroscience Program has an Assessment Plan and the Program advanced to Tier 2. Since the Master's Program is not active, there is no Assessment Plan for this program.

Strategic Plan- No plan for the Master's to appear in any strategic plan.

7. Mission Centrality: Does the program advance the mission of UW including institutional strategy?
 - a. Describe how the program supports the mission, vision and strategic goals of UW.
 - b. Describe how the program contributes to other programs across campus (i.e., general education courses, minor or support courses, interdisciplinary program, etc.)
Supports the Doctoral Neuroscience Program in so far that it allows for some degree recognition for those students who have not completed the final requirements for the PhD in Neuroscience, but have met what would be expected for a master's degree (B or better in all classwork, research presentations and publication from their research).
 - c. Include placement data for graduates and indicate if graduates are working in the field or not.
Previous graduates with a Master's Degree (indicated above) have entered and since graduated from Medical School (n=2), entered a doctoral neuroscience program at another institution (n=2), or a different doctoral program at UW (n=1), or left the field (n=2; no information on these international students).
8. Cost: Is the program financially viable? Not applicable since not admitting students to the Program nor are there any on-campus Master's students.

- a. Course enrollment- not applicable
- b. Other instructional cost drivers- not applicable
- c. Research expenditures per tenured/tenure-track FTE- -0-

*****Cutoffs for “Low Productivity” Designation -- *Degrees Granted***

- Bachelor’s Programs: Average – 5 per year; 5 year total: 25
- Master’s Programs: Average – 3 per year; 5 year total: 15
- Ph.D. Programs: Average – 1 per year; 5 year total: 5

Academic Program Review: **Neuroscience MS**

Section 8 – Cost

The University Office of Institutional Analysis does not track interdisciplinary graduate program data

- a) Ratio of student credit hours per FTE (AY 2014/15):
- b) Direct instructional expenditures (FY 2015)
 - i) Per student FTE:
 - ii) Per total degrees awarded:
 - iii) Non-personnel expenditures / total academic FTE:
- c) Course enrollment (AY 2014/15)
 - i) Classes falling under university minimums:
 - ii) Lower-division courses falling under university minimums:
- e) Research expenditure per tenure-track FTE (FY 2015):