

**Checklist for Neuroscience Graduate Students
Psychological Sciences PhD Program
Vanderbilt University**

Updated 7/15/2020

Name: _____ Advisor: _____

All students must familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations outlined in the [Graduate Student Handbook for Psychological Sciences](#).

This checklist should in no way be seen as a substitute for a careful reading of the Graduate Student Handbook.

General Psychological Science Requirements-Everyone must complete

8861 (P): Statistical Inference (3)

6104 (A&S): Quant Methods/Exp Design (3) or 8864 (P): Experimental Design & Statistics (3)

6300 (A&S): Research Seminar (1)

Breadth Requirements

One (1) course from three (3) of the following areas of specialization (total of 9 credit hours) must be taken regardless of specialization. Note that you may *not* use a course listed in multiple categories to satisfy more than one requirement (a course taken to satisfy general or program requirements cannot be used to satisfy the breadth requirement). See Appendix A in your *Graduate Student Handbook* for qualifying courses in each category.

| <u>Categories</u> | <u>Semester/Year Completed</u> | <u>Course Completed</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| A. Clinical Psychology | _____ | _____ |
| B. Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience | _____ | _____ |
| C. Developmental Psychology | _____ | _____ |
| D. Neuroscience/Physiological Psychology | _____ | _____ |
| E. Perception | _____ | _____ |
| F. Personality and Individual Differences | _____ | _____ |
| G. Quantitative Methods and Evaluation | _____ | _____ |
| H. Social Psychology | _____ | _____ |

Neuroscience Program Course Requirements

All Neuroscience graduate students must also complete the following requirements:

| | <u>Semester/Year Completed</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|
| NURO 8340 Fundamentals of Neuroscience II | _____ |
| -AND- | |
| NURO 8330 Cognitive Neuroscience | _____ |
| OR | |
| NURO 8345 Fundamentals of Neuroscience I | _____ |

All Neuroscience graduate students are to enroll in the PSY 8758 Seminar in Neuroscience. First year students must audit this course. Second and third year students formally enroll for 1 credit hour per semester.

| | <i>1st Year</i> | <i>2nd Year</i> | <i>3rd Year</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Audit | Hours | Hours |
| PSY 8758 Seminar in Neuroscience | Fall _____ Spring _____ | Fall _____ Spring _____ | Fall _____ Spring _____ |

Neuroscience Program Research Requirements

1. Complete a research project in each of the first two years.
2. It is the student’s responsibility to form an Advisory Committee consisting of three faculty members (including the advisor) from Psychological Sciences and to schedule the meeting. **Advisory Committees should be formed by March 31 each year and the form filed with the Department Program Coordinator.** You may have the same committee both years.
3. The advisor will serve as chair of the Advisory Committee.
4. Advisory Committee meetings **must occur by May 1st** of each of the first two years.
5. **At least one week** before the meeting, students will provide committee members with written evidence of research productivity.
6. Refer to Graduate Student Handbook for full details.

Qualifying Examination

See the graduate student handbook for details on the qualifying exam.

The Qualifying Committee consists of at least four members of the Graduate Faculty with at least three members within the student’s home department and at least one faculty member from outside the home department (i.e., either from the other Psychology Department or another Vanderbilt Department). If the outside member is from the other Psychology Department, that person must be from a different area group. **Note that the required 24 hours of course work must be completed prior to scheduling the qualifying examination.**

The qualifying examination must be held no later than May 1st of the third year.

Forms to schedule your qualifying examination may be obtained from the Department Program Coordinator.

Doctoral Dissertation Proposal and Final Defense

See the graduate student handbook for details on the dissertation proposal and the dissertation defense.

A Request to Schedule dissertation proposal form should be filed with the Department Program Coordinator at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled date.

According to Vanderbilt University regulations, the Ph.D. dissertation must be completed and the dissertation defense passed within four years after the student has passed the Qualifying Exam and has been admitted to candidacy for the degree.

A Request to Schedule Final Defense form must be filed at least 2 weeks prior to scheduled date.

All necessary forms are available from the Department Program Coordinator.

Rooms for all milestones may be scheduled at the following link:

http://www.vanderbilt.edu/psychological_sciences/news/ReservationCalendar