Neuroscience Directed Study

A Directed Study is an independent course within the College of Arts and Sciences at BU in which a student participates in an ongoing research project under the guidance of a faculty member at Boston University (CRC or BUSM), or in an approved lab in a Boston Area Hospital. To get an off-campus lab approved, email Dr. Lipton (palipton@bu.edu) with the link to the lab’s website and the email address of the Principal Investigator.

The goal of a Directed Study is for a student to engage in an in-depth study of an area of neuroscience covered only broadly through the curriculum. It is the student’s responsibility to identify a faculty mentor and then complete the following application. The complete CAS policy for Directed Study can be found at http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergraduate/formsprocedures/directed-study-guidelines/.

A Directed Study in Neuroscience
- must involve a subject area within the field of Neuroscience
- will not fulfill a CAS college requirement
- may not be used to replace a currently offered CAS course

Credits
- The number of credits a student may receive is based on the depth of study and time commitment required to complete the Directed Study. Students may earn 1-6 credits per semester, based on the guideline that 3-4 hours of research per week is usually equated to one credit. Thus a 4-credit Directed Study is approximately 12-16 hours per week.
- Students may not complete more than a total of 12 credits of Directed Study within CAS.

Grading
- Final grades for a Directed Study are based on a subjective assessment of research performance and a final paper evaluated by the research mentor/supervising faculty member. Details of both the lab expectations and paper requirements should be discussed with the supervising faculty member prior to the start of the Directed Study.
- Faculty members must submit a final grade through the online grading system at the end of the semester.

Process
1. Identify and contact a faculty member heading a lab in which you’d like to complete your Directed Study.
2. Arrange a meeting with the supervising faculty member during which you will design a clear, explicit plan for the completion of the Directed Study. Establish a set of expectations (weekly hours, recognition of semester exam schedule for other courses, grading), supervision, a list of research materials and references, and the goals of your study.
3. Begin the online application.
4. Send the Supervising Faculty Approval Form to your supervising faculty member (the Principal Investigator in your lab).
5. Submit the online application.
6. Wait for an acceptance email. The Undergraduate Neuroscience office will register students directly under their faculty supervisor.

Deadline
All applications must be submitted no later than noon on the last day to ADD a class for the semester in which the Directed Study will occur.

Questions? Contact Liz Tingley at etingley@bu.edu