

PROGRAM FEE REQUEST

University: University of Arizona College: College of Science
 Department/School: School of Mind, Brain and Behavior Program: Neuroscience and Cognitive Science (NSCS)

Circle one: Graduate Undergraduate
 Circle one: Upper Division Lower Division Both

New \$ pre-major: \$65/semester
major: \$400/semester Fall 2015
 (Proposed) (Effective Date)

Existing \$ _____ \$ _____ \$ _____
 (Proposed) (Current) (Year Approved)

Program will be offered through: Main Campus Outreach College Both

Proposed fee to be applied as: Per Term Per Unit--Total ___ Units/Program

Proposed fee to be applied: Fall Spring Summer Winter

Date Submitted: March 26, 2015

Rationale for Request

The NSCS program began in the spring of 2011 with just 15 students. Today, the program has ~500 students, with 21.8% from out of state. When the students were surveyed, the overwhelming response was that many chose to attend UA (in- or out-of-state) because of the undergraduate NSCS program. There simply is not another program like it in the U.S.; it is unique in its combination of neuroscience and cognitive science as well as in the wide array of choices available to our students. As our program has grown, student feedback and discussion with employers consistently indicate that NSCS students would benefit from programmatic improvements that would enhance integration of curricular elements and provide NSCS-specific training that would build their competitiveness for postgraduate and employment opportunities.

Compliance with Board Guidelines

The proposed program fee will robustly enhance the quality of our academic program and better prepare our students to be highly competitive for postgraduate and employment opportunities. Program fees will be used to:

- Provide professional development workshops to enhance student competitiveness for employment in NSCS fields;
- Develop neuroscience and cognitive science-related internship opportunities;
- Offer extended interactions with advisors to ensure that pre-majors take full advantage of the extensive curricular choices available to them;
- Offer pre-major-gearred NSCS-career-exploration discussions with people using their NSCS-related education in different fields (2x/semester);
- Develop a strong student-alumni network to enable current students to find program alumni who can provide guidance in finding employment and in developing professional contacts;
- Support a student journal club that will provide opportunities for undergraduate students to enhance their presentation skills, highlight their research, and discuss a wide range of articles in the neuroscience and cognitive science literature;
- Develop additional courses in neuroscience and cognitive science at the upper-division level, likely to include a capstone course, to add greater breadth and depth to the students' academic program;
- Add a section of NSCS 215, Electrophysiology lab, which is geared toward pre-majors;
- Offer workshops to enhance student understanding of the NSCS literature and clinical practice, for example: neural network modeling and decision-theory; the physics, use of, and interpretation of common techniques such as fMRI, EEG, and DTI;
- Create a visiting-scientist program focused on the students, inviting for week-long visits scientists who operate at the crucial cognitive science/neuroscience interface that is a hallmark of our program;

A portion of the fee (14%) will be set aside for financial aid and the NSCS program will convene a Student Fee Advisory Committee to ensure that the needs of the students are being met.

Student Consultation

Broad efforts were made to secure student feedback on the proposed fees. These included in-class discussion with ~ 110 students in a core course taken by the juniors, an online survey to which 69 NSCS students responded, direct discussion with 14 NSCS Ambassadors who are senior student leaders in the NSCS program, and by requests to all pre-NSCS and NSCS students to provide feedback via email, by participation in one of several open forums, or by direct discussion with the program coordinator and/or faculty director. In general, the students were enthusiastic about the additional opportunities and higher level of career and advising services. The Ambassadors were unanimously positive, and asked only that the NSCS website include an annual report on the use of the fees. The other major concern was that the financial-waiver process be particularly sensitive to the need to support first-generation and economically disadvantaged students so as to increase student diversity in this STEM field.

Market pricing

6 peer institutions were reviewed to determine program fees charged by neuroscience, neurobiology, or cognitive science undergraduate programs. These are summarized in Table 1. We do not know of another Neuroscience AND Cognitive Science program in the U.S. Only Pennsylvania State University assesses a fee for a neuroscience major. Two others currently assess a fee for students enrolled in any life or biological sciences. With the proposed program fee, AY 2015-16 UA tuition and fees for an NSCS program student ranks 5th among the universities.

2015/16 Undergraduate Tuition & Mandatory Fee Projections

	2014/15 Resident Tuition & Fees	FY 2015 Projected Tuition & Fees @ 2%	Neuroscience, Cognitive science, or Biology fees	Total 2015/16 Projected + Fee
Pennsylvania State Univ	17,502 17,852		1,462	19,314
Univ Minnesota – Twin Cities	13,560	13,831	460	14,291
U California-LA	12,701	12,955	N/A	12,955
Univ Washington	12,394	12,642	N/A	12,642
Univ of Arizona	10,600	10,812*	130 (pre-major) 800 (major)	10,942 11,612
AZ State Univ	10,157	10,360	800	11,160
Univ Wisconsin – Madison	10,410	10,618	N/A	10,618

* without proposed fee

ACCOUNTABILITY

Financial Aid Set-Aside Amount: 14%

Proposed Annual Revenue (AY 2015/16)

Program fee for pre-majors	\$130	
Number of pre-majors	300	
Revenue from pre-majors		\$39,000
Program fee for majors	\$800	
Number of majors	200	
Revenue from majors		\$160,000
Total revenue		\$199,000

Proposed Annual Expenditures

Financial aid set aside (14%)	\$ 27,860
Administrative charge (10%)	\$ 19,900
Institutional and advising personnel	\$ 99,871
Support staff expense	\$ 33,255
Operating expense	\$ 18,114