GRADUATE NEUROSCIENCE AND BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

BA/MA PROGRAM

The Neuroscience & Behavior Program offers graduate work leading to the degree of Master of Arts through the BA/MA program. The program has a strong research orientation. It also includes course work, seminars, and, in some cases, teaching. A student hoping to enter this program will be expected to declare the intention to do so in the first semester of their junior year to permit the design of an acceptable program with both the major department and a research advisor within that department.

COURSES

BA/MA PROGRAM

The MA will require 6 – 8 credits in addition to the 32 necessary for the Wesleyan BA. Of these credits, two to four will be in advanced coursework (200, 300 & 500) 1 credit lab, lecture or seminar course determined by the student and mentor. The remaining credits will be earned through Journal Club I & II (0.25 credits x 2 = 0.50), Research Seminar (NS&B549, NS&B550) both semesters (1.0 credit x 2 = 2.0) and BIOL557 (0.50 credits). MA credit will only be awarded for academic work in which grades of B minus or higher have been earned. A student in the program who earns more than 32 credits in four years may apply any excess credits toward the MA, providing that they are in the major area and they have not been used to fulfill the undergraduate major requirement.

PROGRESS AND QUALIFYING EXAMS

A 3-member committee of the faculty will be established upon acceptance in the BA/MA program. The candidate will be in contact with their committee in early stages of research and meet with them in the second semester of their 5th year. This committee determines when sufficient experimental work has been completed and must approve the final written document. Students in this program will be expected to submit a MA thesis describing the research which they have carried out in partial fulfillment of the degree requirements.

TEACHING

There are no requirements for BA/MA candidates to teach although the opportunity may arise.

THESIS/DISSERTATION/DEFENSE

Students in this program will submit an MA thesis describing the research and will present this to their committee in a closed-door oral defense of the thesis. Following the oral defense with the thesis committee, the students will receive two grades for their thesis work: one for the oral component and one for the written component of the thesis. Additionally, students are required give a public presentation during the BIOL557 seminar describing their research as partial fulfillment of the degree requirements.