



## MEMORANDUM

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To: Lee Patterson, Chair, CGS  
Date: September 10, 2020  
RE: Executive Action Taken at the CLAS Curriculum Committee Meeting on Sep 9, 2020

The following request was approved by executive action at the CLAS Curriculum Committee meeting on Sep 9, 2020. The request would be effective Spring 2021. I ask that similar action be taken at the Council on Graduate Studies.

### **Request:**

Change the format of BIO 4834/5434 Neurobiology and BIO 4835/5435 Advanced Neurobiology from the current 3-0-3 format to a 4-0-4 format (adding one hour of lecture per week).

### **Rationale for change:**

Neurobiology (BIO 4834/5434) and Advanced Neurobiology (BIO 4835/5435) are mainly taken by students interested in health professions. The course content, textbooks, and additional course materials used in these courses closely follow prescribed syllabi in health profession schools. Most of these schools waive their required Neurobiology courses if our students complete about 80% of the prescribed syllabi. Given the explosion of knowledge in Neurobiology, it is difficult to cover the required 80% in 3 lecture hours. In addition, health profession schools expect students who have taken Neurobiology to have a strong background in Neuroanatomy, which takes several additional lectures. Moreover, students in the Neurobiology class expect the instructor to cover materials they need to answer neurobiology-related clinical questions in their professional school admission tests, like the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The current 3 hours of lecture per week do not provide adequate time to teach all of these. An additional hour of lecture would allow this additional content to be adequately covered.

**Effective Year/Term:** Spring 2021

## **Current Course Descriptions**

BIO 4834/5434 (3-0-3) A study of the structure and function of neurons, the principal cells of the nervous system, at the molecular and cellular level. This course will emphasize neurobiological aspects of learning, memory, and behavior. Prerequisites BIO 3120 (Molecular and Cell Biology) or permission of the instructor. Credits: 3

BIO 4835/5435 (3-0-3) This course will cover advanced topics on molecular, cellular and physiological aspects of brain structure and function during health and diseases. Prerequisites BIO 4834 (Neurobiology) or BIO 5434 (Neurobiology). Credits: 3

## **Requested Modifications**

BIO 4834/5434 (~~3~~ 4-0-~~3~~ 4) A study of the structure and function of neurons, the principal cells of the nervous system, at the molecular and cellular level. This course will emphasize neurobiological aspects of learning, memory, and behavior. Prerequisites BIO 3120 (Molecular and Cell Biology) or permission of the instructor. Credits: ~~3~~ 4

BIO 4835/5435 (~~3~~ 4-0-~~3~~ 4) This course will cover advanced topics on molecular, cellular and physiological aspects of brain structure and function during health and diseases. Prerequisites BIO 4834 (Neurobiology) or BIO 5434 (Neurobiology). Credits: ~~3~~ 4