

NEUROBIOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY, & BEHAVIOR, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

College of Biological Sciences

Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior (NPB) is a major that emphasizes the understanding of vital functions common to all animals. All animals perform certain basic functions—they grow, reproduce, move, respond to stimuli, and maintain homeostasis. The physiological mechanisms upon which these functions depend are precisely regulated and highly integrated. Actions of the nervous and endocrine systems determine behavior and the interaction between organisms and their physical and social environments. Students in this major study functional mechanisms; the control, regulation, and integration of these mechanisms; and the behavior that relates to those mechanisms. They do so at the level of the cell, the organ system, and the organism.

The Program

In the freshman and sophomore years, students majoring in Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior build a broad scientific background, taking courses in chemistry, biology, physics, and mathematics. As juniors or seniors, students can enroll in a variety of Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior courses and related upper division courses. The NPB major contains three tracks: the Neurobiology track, the Physiology track, and the Organism-Environmental Interactions track. If you wish to propose an alternative to these tracks for yourself, please meet with your Biology Academic Success Center (BASC) advisor who can approve such individualized plans. Students can also participate in a number of advanced laboratory courses or may design an individual, independent project guided by a member of the faculty.

Career Alternatives

Completion of the Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior major provides the foundation for advanced study leading to careers in high school teaching, college level teaching or research. It also serves as the basis for further training in the health professions, including but not limited to human and veterinary medicine, medical technology, physical therapy, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, and optometry. The major is also appropriate for those intending to seek careers in biotechnology or other biologically related industries.

Faculty Advisors

William DeBello, Ph.D. (<https://biology.ucdavis.edu/people/william-debello/>), Talitha van der Meulen, Ph.D. (<https://biology.ucdavis.edu/people/talitha-van-der-meulen/>)

Advising

Biology Academic Success Center (BASC) (<https://basc.biology.ucdavis.edu/>) in 1023 Katherine Esau Science Hall (formerly Sciences Laboratory Building); 530-752-0410, cbsundergrads@ucdavis.edu.

Graduate Study

Information on graduate study in neuroscience, physiology or behavior may be obtained by writing the Graduate Advisor, College of Biological Sciences, Graduate Academic Programs. See also the graduate course offerings listed under Animal Behavior (Graduate Group), Molecular,

Cellular, & Integrative Physiology (Graduate Group), and Neuroscience. See also Graduate Studies (<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/>).

The major requirements below are in addition to meeting University Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/university-degree-requirements/>) & College Degree Requirements (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate-education/college-degree-requirements/>); unless otherwise noted. The minimum number of units required for the Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior Bachelor of Science is 97.

Code	Title	Units
Preparatory Subject Matter		
<i>Biological Science</i>		15
BIS 002A & BIS 002B & BIS 002C	Introduction to Biology: Essentials of Life on Earth and Introduction to Biology: Principles of Ecology & Evolution and Introduction to Biology: Biodiversity & the Tree of Life	
<i>Chemistry</i>		
Choose the 002 series or 004 series: ¹		15
CHE 002A & CHE 002B & CHE 002C	General Chemistry and General Chemistry and General Chemistry	
OR		
CHE 004A & CHE 004B & CHE 004C	General Chemistry for the Physical Sciences & Engineering and General Chemistry for the Physical Sciences & Engineering and General Chemistry for the Physical Sciences & Engineering	
Choose the 008 series or 118 series or 128 series & 129 A-B: ²		6-13
CHE 008A & CHE 008B	Organic Chemistry: Brief Course and Organic Chemistry: Brief Course	
OR		
CHE 118A & CHE 118B & CHE 118C	Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences and Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences and Organic Chemistry for Health & Life Sciences	
OR		
CHE 128A & CHE 128B & CHE 128C	Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry and Organic Chemistry	
CHE 129A & CHE 129B	Organic Chemistry Laboratory and Organic Chemistry Laboratory	
<i>Mathematics</i>		
Choose the 017 series or 021 series: ³		8-12
MAT 017A & MAT 017B & MAT 017C	Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine and Calculus for Biology & Medicine	
OR		
MAT 021A & MAT 021B & MAT 021C	Calculus and Calculus and Calculus (Recommended)	
<i>Physics</i>		

Choose the 007 series or 009 series: 12-15

PHY 007A General Physics
& PHY 007B and General Physics
& PHY 007C and General Physics

OR

PHY 009A Classical Physics
& PHY 009B and Classical Physics
& PHY 009C and Classical Physics

Students may be able to complete their Physics requirement by blending the PHY 007 & PHY 009 series. For more details about how to do so and course placement, students will need to follow up with the PHY department. Students will also need to follow up with a BASC advisor to discuss their plans. ⁴

Preparatory Subject Matter Subtotal 56-70

Depth Subject Matter*Biological Science*

BIS 101 Genes & Gene Expression 4
or BIS 101V Genes & Gene Expression

BIS 105 Biomolecules & Metabolism 3-6
or (BIS 102 OR BIS 102V) Bioenergetics & Metabolism
& BIS 103

Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior

NPB 110A Foundations 1: From Molecules to Individuals 5

NPB 110B Foundations 2: Neurobiology 5

NPB 110C Foundations 3: Physiology 5

Statistics

STA 100 Applied Statistics for Biological Sciences 4

Laboratory Requirements

Choose 3 units of laboratory work from the track-specific list: 3

Neurobiology Track

NPB 100L Neurobiology Laboratory

Physiology Track

NPB 101L Systemic Physiology Laboratory

Organism-Environmental Interactions Track

NPB 101L Systemic Physiology Laboratory

Integrative Principles Track

NPB 100L Neurobiology Laboratory

or NPB 101L Systemic Physiology Laboratory

Depth Electives

All students must do a minimum of four depth electives: three Track-Specific Depth Electives, and one Additional Depth Elective. At least two of these electives must be upper division NPB or EXB courses. ⁵

Track-Specific Depth Electives

Choose three Track-Specific Depth Electives from one of the following: 9-13

Neurobiology Track (p. 3)

Physiology Track (p. 3)

Organism-Environmental Interactions Track (p. 4)

Integrative Principles Track (p. 4)

Additional Depth Elective

Choose one Additional Depth Elective in addition to completing three Track-Specific Depth Electives. The course cannot have been used in satisfaction of any other major requirement. 3-5

ANT 151	Primate Evolution
ENT 104	Behavioral Ecology of Insects
ENT 153	Medical Entomology
EVE 100	Introduction to Evolution
EXB 101	Exercise Physiology
EXB 102	Introduction to Motor Learning & the Psychology of Sport & Exercise (Discontinued for winter 2026) **
EXB 106/CHA 101	Human Gross Anatomy
EXB 106L/CHA 101L	Human Gross Anatomy Laboratory
EXB 110	Exercise Metabolism
EXB 112	Clinical Exercise Physiology
EXB 117	Exercise & Aging in Health & Disease
EXB 124	Physiology of Maximal Human Performance
EXB 125	Neuromuscular & Behavioral Aspects of Motor Control
MMG 102 or MIC 102 DISCONTINUED FOR FALL 2026 **	Introductory Microbiology
NPB 100L	Neurobiology Laboratory
NPB 101L	Systemic Physiology Laboratory
NPB 102	Animal Behavior
NPB 106	Experiments in Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior: Design & Execution
NPB 107	Cell Signaling in Health & Disease
NPB 109	Kinesiology: Analysis & Control of Human Movement
NPB 113	Cardiovascular, Respiratory, & Renal Physiology
NPB 114	Gastrointestinal Physiology
NPB 116	Stress Physiology in Health & Disease
NPB 117	Avian Physiology
NPB 118	Comparative Biomechanics
NPB 121	Physiology of Reproduction
NPB 123/APC 100	Comparative Vertebrate Organology
NPB/PSC 124	Comparative Neuroanatomy
NPB 128	Comparative Physiology: Endocrinology
NPB 130	Physiology of the Endocrine Glands
NPB 132	Nature vs. Nurture: Physiological Interactions Among Genes, Nutrients & Health
NPB 133	Genes & the Brain
NPB 134	General Immunology for Physiologists
NPB 139	Frontiers in Physiology
NPB 140	Principles of Environmental Physiology
NPB 141	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **
NPB 141P	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **
NPB 150/PSC 122	Advanced Animal Behavior
NPB 152/PSC 123	Hormones & Behavior
NPB/HPH 157	Advanced Physiology of Animal/Human Disease
NPB 159	Frontiers in Behavior

NPB 161	Developmental Neurobiology (Discontinued for winter 2026)**	
NPB 162	Neural Mechanisms of Behavior	
NPB 163	Systems Neuroscience	
NPB 164	Mammalian Vision (Discontinued for winter 2026)**	
NPB 165	Neurobiology of Speech Perception	
NPB 168	Neurobiology of Addictive Drugs	
NPB 169	Frontiers in Neurobiology	
NPB 171	Physiology of Neuroimmune Interactions	
NPB 172	Map Formation in the Brain (Discontinued for winter 2026)**	
NPB 173	Neurobiology of Brain Disorders	
Depth Subject Matter Subtotal		41-50
Total Units		97-120

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With BASC advisor approval, these combinations also satisfy the Chemistry requirement: CHE 004A-CHE 002A (3 units w/no lab)-CHE 002B-CHE 002C; CHE 004A, CHE 004B-CHE 002C.

2

With BASC advisor approval, these combinations also satisfy the Organic Chemistry requirement: CHE 118A-CHE 008B; CHE 128A-CHE 128B-CHE 008B; CHE 128A-CHE 118B-CHE 118C; CHE 128A-CHE 128B-CHE 129A-CHE 118C; CHE 118A-CHE 128B-CHE 128C-CHE 129A-CHE 129B; CHE 118A-CHE 118B-CHE 128C-CHE 129B.

3

With BASC advisor approval, this combination also satisfies the Mathematics requirement: MAT 021A-MAT 017B-MAT 017C; MAT 017A-MAT 021B.

4

With BASC advisor approval, these combinations also satisfy the Physics requirement: PHY 007A-PHY 009A-PHY 049*-PHY 007C; PHY 009A-PHY 049*-PHY 007C. *PHY 049 will require approval from the Physics Department to enroll.

5

4 units of NPB 199 or NPB 194HB may be substituted for a single Track-Specific Depth Elective. Substitution must be pre-approved by Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior faculty advisor. Only one of the following courses can be used as a major depth elective: 4 units of NPB 199; NPB 194HB; NPB 106.

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Neurobiology Track Depth Electives

Code	Title	Units
NPB 101L	Systemic Physiology Laboratory	3
NPB 106	Experiments in Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior: Design & Execution	3
NPB 107	Cell Signaling in Health & Disease	3
NPB/PSC 124	Comparative Neuroanatomy	3
NPB 136	Neural Networks & Machine Learning in Biology	4
NPB 162	Neural Mechanisms of Behavior	3

NPB 163	Systems Neuroscience	4
NPB 164	Mammalian Vision (Discontinued for winter 2026)**	4
NPB 165	Neurobiology of Speech Perception	3
NPB 168	Neurobiology of Addictive Drugs	4
NPB 169	Frontiers in Neurobiology	3
NPB 171	Physiology of Neuroimmune Interactions	4
NPB 172	Map Formation in the Brain (Discontinued for winter 2026)**	3
NPB 173	Neurobiology of Brain Disorders	3
PSC 130	Human Learning & Memory	4
PSC 135	Cognitive Neuroscience: The Biological Foundations of the Mind	4
PSC 137	Neurobiology of Learning & Memory	4

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Physiology Track Depth Electives

Code	Title	Units
ANS 123	Animal Growth & Development	4
EXB 106	Human Gross Anatomy	4
EXB 106L	Human Gross Anatomy Laboratory	3
EXB 101	Exercise Physiology	4
EXB 110	Exercise Metabolism	3
EXB 112	Clinical Exercise Physiology	4
EXB 117	Exercise & Aging in Health & Disease	3
EXB 124	Physiology of Maximal Human Performance	4
EXB 125	Neuromuscular & Behavioral Aspects of Motor Control	3
MMI 188A or MMI 188B	Human Immunology	3-4
PMI 126	Fundamentals of Immunology	3
MCB 150	Developmental Biology	4
NPB 106	Experiments in Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior: Design & Execution	3
NPB 107	Cell Signaling in Health & Disease	3
NPB 109	Kinesiology: Analysis & Control of Human Movement	4
NPB 113	Cardiovascular, Respiratory, & Renal Physiology	4
NPB 114	Gastrointestinal Physiology	3
NPB 116	Stress Physiology in Health & Disease	3
NPB 118	Comparative Biomechanics	3
NPB 121	Physiology of Reproduction	4
NPB 123	Comparative Vertebrate Organology	4
NPB 128	Comparative Physiology: Endocrinology	3
NPB 130	Physiology of the Endocrine Glands	4
NPB 132	Nature vs. Nurture: Physiological Interactions Among Genes, Nutrients & Health	3
NPB 134	General Immunology for Physiologists	3
NPB 139	Frontiers in Physiology	3

NPB 140	Principles of Environmental Physiology	3
NPB 141	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **	3
NPB 141P	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **	5
NPB 152/PSC 123	Hormones & Behavior	3
NPB/HPH 157	Advanced Physiology of Animal/Human Disease	3
NPB 168	Neurobiology of Addictive Drugs	4

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Organism-Environmental Interactions Track Depth Electives

Code	Title	Units
ANS 104	Principles & Applications of Domestic Animal Behavior	4
ANS 123	Animal Growth & Development	4
EVE 105	Phylogenetic Analysis of Vertebrate Structure (Discontinued for winter 2026) **	4
EVE 107	Animal Communication	4
EVE 147	Biogeography	4
NPB 100L	Neurobiology Laboratory	3
NPB 102	Animal Behavior	3
NPB 106	Experiments in Neurobiology, Physiology, & Behavior: Design & Execution	3
NPB 113	Cardiovascular, Respiratory, & Renal Physiology	4
NPB 117	Avian Physiology	3
NPB 118	Comparative Biomechanics	3
NPB 123	Comparative Vertebrate Organology	4
NPB 128	Comparative Physiology: Endocrinology	3
NPB 132	Nature vs. Nurture: Physiological Interactions Among Genes, Nutrients & Health	3
NPB 140	Principles of Environmental Physiology	3
NPB 141	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **	3
NPB 141P	(Discontinued for spring 2023) **	5
NPB 150/PSC 122	Advanced Animal Behavior	4
NPB 152/PSC 123	Hormones & Behavior	3
NPB 159	Frontiers in Behavior	3
NPB 162	Neural Mechanisms of Behavior	3
PMI 126	Fundamentals of Immunology	3
WFC 130	Physiological Ecology of Wildlife	4
WFC 141	Behavioral Ecology	4

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Course(s) discontinued; see your advisor for course options.

Integrative Principles Track Depth Electives

Needs to be approved by a BASC advisor. Any three courses from any of the three NPB tracks.