Behavioral Neuroscience

Overview
Behavioral neuroscience is an interdisciplinary major that explores the neural basis of behavior through psychology, chemistry, philosophy, molecular biology, cellular biology and many other disciplines. The relationship between the brain's function and behavior is examined at multiple levels of analysis, from how a cell functions to how a facial expression conveys trust or fear.

Internships and Service Learning
The College's extensive programs can lead you around the world to study away in places like Denmark, New Zealand, Ireland and Austria to take unique neuroscience courses that will count for the major. With college-funded stipends, many students design their own summer internships at research institutions across the country or spend the summer on campus in paid internships conducting research with Conn faculty. As a behavioral neuroscience major, you also have the chance to inspire others to learn about science with community events like the College's Kids Judge! Neuroscience Fair. You and your fellow students plan and create interactive demonstrations, games and crafts to teach elementary students how the brain works - and your projects are judged by them.

Research Opportunities
We emphasize research skills in our courses, and we use animals extensively to help you learn. Both core courses, "Behavioral Neuroscience" and "Psychopharmacology," have a lab requirement. Many students conduct individual studies to hone their research skills. The experience you gain will be invaluable as you prepare for medical school, graduate school or a research position.

Conferences and Scientific Societies
Behavioral neuroscience majors have recently traveled to San Diego, Washington, DC, and Chicago to present their research at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in the same arenas with world-renowned neuroscientists. Students also regularly participate in NEURON, the Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience, where they come in contact with undergraduates, grad students and faculty from many other institutions.

Special Opportunities
Connecticut College houses a chapter of Nu Rho Psi, the national honor society for neuroscience. Eligible students are invited to join the society in their sophomore year and are actively involved with community outreach and fundraising walks for the Alzheimer's Association, The Multiple Sclerosis Society and Walk Now for Autism Speaks.

Recent behavioral neuroscience graduates have received prestigious Fulbright (Stephanie Reeves ’16) and Goldwater (Leah Fleming ‘16 and Stephanie Jackvony ’18) fellowships to pursue post-graduate research. Many other students have been accepted to top medical, veterinary, nursing, physician assistant and Ph.D. programs at universities including Yale, Columbia, NYU, Brown, Johns Hopkins and Emory.
Faculty

Ruth E. Grahn, Associate Professor of Psychology
B.A., Mount Holyoke College; M.A., Ph.D.,
University of Colorado
Impact of stress on behavior and
neural function; animal models of
psychopathology; role of serotonin in
fear/anxiety-related behaviors; protein
immunohistochemistry

Joseph Schroeder, Associate Professor of
Neuroscience; Director of the Behavioral
Neuroscience Program
B.A., Franklin & Marshall College; Ph.D.,
Thomas Jefferson University
Neurobiology of analgesia; the neurobiological
mechanisms of psychostimulant-
related behavior; animal models of
neurodegenerative disease and drug abuse;
heavy metal neurotoxicity; spatial navigation
learning and memory; development of
zebrafish behavioral pharmacology models

Selected Courses
Behavioral Neuroscience; Psychopharmacology; Cognitive Brain
Imaging; Medical Anthropology; Neurobiology of Disease; Sensation and
Perception; Psychology of Sleep; Mindfulness and Meditation; Behavioral
Endocrinology; Psychology of Stress

About Connecticut College
Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action
as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911,
the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships,
community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and
international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is
located in the historic New England seaport community of New London,
Conn.

WHAT CAN YOU DO
WITH A MAJOR IN
BEHAVIORAL
NEUROSCIENCE?

Psychiatrist, Mt. Sinai Health
Study Coordinator, Joslin Diabetes Center
Emergency Room Technician,
Framingham MetroWest Medical Center
Teacher, Equality Charter School
Nurse Practitioner, CVS Minute Clinic
EMT-B, Mt. Sinai Health
Lab Technologist,
Massachusetts General Hospital
Research Assistant, Cummings School of
Veterinary Medicine at Tufts
Psychiatric Nurse, Four Winds Hospital
Veterinarian, Bristol-Myers Squibb
Anesthesiologist,
Anesthesia Associates of New Haven
Emergency Planner,
Hartford Health Department
Assistant Scientist, Palatin Technologies

EXAMPLES OF STUDENT
RESEARCH IN
BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

Leah Fleming ’16
(Honors Thesis) The impact of NMDA and
NR2B-specific antagonists on working
memory function and c-fos expression in
rats: Unraveling the ketamine mystery.

Jyneva Pickel ’15, Valeria Svystun ’15,
Taylor Havican ’15, Lena Mininberg ’17,
Luisanny Perez ’17, Samantha Pierce
’16, Annie DiLisio ’17, Michael Reilly
’17, Elysia Ridener ’14
Enhanced extinction of cocaine conditioned
place preference via glutamate transporter
activation is associated with reduced
nucleus accumbens c-Fos expression

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CONNCOLL.EDU/ACADEMICS/