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.

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.

Internships and Service Learning

The College's extensive programs can lead you across the United States and around the world. Many students conduct summer research internships. 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.

Conferences and Scientific Societies

Behavioral neuroscience majors participate in the annual meetings of the Society for Neuroscience and NEURON, the Northeast Under/graduate Research Organization for Neuroscience. NEURON will put you in contact with undergraduates, grad students and faculty at many other institutions.
Faculty

Ruth E. Grahn, Associate Professor of Psychology; Chair of the Psychology Department
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

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
Owner, Conlin Rudd Interior Design
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

Jamie C. Honohan '13, Rebecca H. Markson '13, Lauren Cameron '14
Are Oreos addictive? Nucleus accumbens C-Fos expression is correlated with conditioned place preference to cocaine, morphine and high fat/sugar food consumption

Nicolas G. Tolman ’13, Chelsea N. Louis ’14, Gwen Galvin ’14
Comparison of prenatal and post-weaning lead exposure and enriched versus impoverished rearing environment on visuospatial learning and memory in rats

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