

# SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

## Degree Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

To qualify for the dual-title degree, students must satisfy the requirements of their primary graduate program in which they are primarily enrolled. In addition, they must satisfy the requirements described below, as established by the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Steering Committee.

The minimum course work requirements for the dual-title Ph.D. degree in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience are as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
Course work and other requirements of the primary program.		
NEURO 520	Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience	3
SBN 590	Colloquium (1 credit, taken twice)	2
Select 3 credits from the following:		3
NEURO 511	Neurobiology II	
NEURO 512	Comparative Neuroanatomy	
BIOL 478	COMPARATIVE NEUROANATOMY	
Select a minimum of 9 credits from the following:		9
NEURO 521	Systems Neuroscience	
SBN 505	Seminar in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience	
SBN 508	Methods in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience <sup>1</sup>	
SBN 511	Translational Applications of Social and Behavioral Neuroscience <sup>1</sup>	
HDFS 502	Biological Systems in Developmental Context	
HDFS 512	Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience of Adolescence	
PSY 524	Proseminar in Cognitive Psychology	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>17</b>

<sup>1</sup> SBN 505, SBN 508, and SBN 511 can be taken more than once, if this involves sections with different topics. Primary graduate programs will determine whether a given section of the SBN courses can fulfill their requirements.

The dissertation must involve the integration of neuroscience and a research question of interest within the primary graduate program.

Selection of specific courses is made by the student in consultation with an adviser from the primary graduate program and an adviser from the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience program. Primary graduate programs may add additional distributional requirements.

Students or faculty may request that the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Steering Committee consider approval of other courses, including one-time approval for an experimental or variable-title course. The Steering Committee may delegate this approval process to the

program Director, in consultation with academic advisers from a student's primary graduate program and Social and Behavioral Neuroscience.

## Qualifying Exam

The dual-title degree will be guided by the Qualifying Exam procedure of the primary graduate program and the Graduate Council. In accordance with Graduate Council policy, the Qualifying Examination requirement shall be satisfied by one of the following:

- Ideally, a single Qualifying Examination that incorporates content from both the graduate major program and Social and Behavioral Neuroscience is preferred. Dual-title degree students may request an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the Qualifying Exam may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable. The qualifying examination committee must include at least one member of the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role.
  - In cases where the timing of the Qualifying Examination in the graduate major program precludes the inclusion of the dual-title, an examination demonstrating proficiency in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience may occur at a later time, but no later than the end of the fourth semester (not counting summer semesters) of entry into the major doctoral program. In cases where separate Qualifying Examinations are administered, Graduate Faculty from both the graduate major program and SBN will administer the SBN Qualifying Examination.
- With prior approval from the SBN Professor-in-Charge, the dual-title program in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience may allow the Qualifying Examination in Biobehavioral Health alone to satisfy the requirements for the dual-title program.

## Ph.D. Committee Composition

The Ph.D. committee must conform to all requirements of the primary graduate program and the Graduate Council. In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-602-phd-committee-formation/>), the Ph.D. committee of a Social and Behavioral Neuroscience dual-title doctoral degree student must include at least one member of the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair of the Ph.D. committee is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience, a member of the committee representing Social and Behavioral Neuroscience must be appointed as co-chair.

## Comprehensive Exam

The dual-title degree will be guided by the Comprehensive Exam procedure of the primary graduate program. After completion of required course work, doctoral students enrolled in the dual-title doctoral degree must pass a comprehensive examination. In programs where this includes evaluation of a written exam, the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience representative on the student's Ph.D. committee will participate in the writing and evaluation of the exam, in accordance with procedures maintained by the primary graduate program. In programs where the comprehensive exam involves defense of a dissertation prospectus, the Social and Behavioral Neuroscience representative on the student's Ph.D. committee will participate in the evaluation of the

prospectus, including ensuring the proposed dissertation has substantial Social and Behavioral Neuroscience content.

### **Dissertation and Dissertation Defense**

Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. Students enrolled in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that reflects their original research and education in their primary graduate discipline and in Social and Behavioral Neuroscience. The dissertation must be accepted by the Ph.D. committee, the heads of both graduate programs, and the Graduate School.