

Neuroscience Program
Student Award Descriptions
Approved 11-10-2022

Awards requiring nomination

For the following awards, students may be nominated by faculty, another student, or may self-nominate. It is the responsibility of the nominator to supply the Neuroscience Advisory Committee with a current resume of the student nominee.

Outstanding Neuroscience Major Service Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize a Neuroscience senior who has demonstrated continued commitment to their program, college, university, and/or service to the broader community.

Criteria for selection are:

- a. The recipient of the award must be a declared Neuroscience major and have senior standing.
- b. Academic Performance. Quality of academic scholarship will be one of several factors considered in selection for this award. The minimum grade point averages (GPA) for consideration are 3.00 on both Loyola and Neuroscience GPAs. However, academic excellence by itself will not merit an award.
- c. Service demonstrated in one or more of the following ways:
 - Departmental, College, and/or University Involvement. The outstanding senior should be someone who has been visible in the Program, College, and/or University and has an impact on the quality with which the Program performs its functions. This visibility could be attained through being a work/study student, an officer of program-related student organization(s), representing students at program or other University- or College-related meetings, involvement in student recruiting, or other forms of work outside of regular class assignments.
 - Community Engagement. The outstanding senior should demonstrate quality and quantity of service to the community relative to Neuroscience Program's functions and/or settings external to the program and University, including service provided through student organizations or University divisions, such as LUCAP, Campus Ministry, or Community-Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship (service learning).

Determination of Recipient for Nominated Awards In the Spring semester of each academic year, the Director of the Neuroscience Program shall invite nominations from the Neuroscience Advisory Committee and Neuroscience students, in accordance with the eligibility and criterion statements above. Once nominations are completed, deliberation and voting will be conducted by members of the Neuroscience Advisory Committee; a quorum consists of three-fourths of those holding the franchise. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be declared the recipient of the award for that academic year. If circumstances warrant, a recipient need not be named. Furthermore, the advisory committee may identify more than one recipient of this award for any given academic year if such is deemed to be appropriate.

Awards not requiring nomination

The following awards do not require nomination, although may require submission of materials.

Outstanding Neuroscience Major Research Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in undergraduate student research. It is assumed that research of this quality would be suitable for presentation at a regional conference, or as an undergraduate research thesis, although neither of these are requirements for consideration. While faculty supervision is required, and faculty input assumed, the conducted research and the manuscript submitted must have been planned, executed, and written by the submitting undergraduate student. The conducted research need not have been done at Loyola University New Orleans, but the name of the submitting student must have appeared on the protocol submitted to the appropriate institutional review board for human or animal research.

Selection of the award recipient will be based on a review of a completed research paper, which will be judged by members of the Neuroscience Advisory Committee and, when possible, by reviewers outside of the program. These judges will be asked to assign a rank to each research paper and then to indicate if they consider the research appropriate for this award. Papers will be judged blindly (without the judges having knowledge of authorship). Final decisions are the responsibility of members of the Neuroscience Advisory Committee.

The research paper will be expected to comply with the current publication guidelines the student's major concentration or with *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Students are cautioned that deviations from an accepted format might adversely affect selection. All papers considered for this award must comply with ethical guidelines, including having faculty sponsorship/supervision of the research. Acknowledgment of the input of others should be noted in an Author Note.

The paper should be submitted without information indicating who the author is, as masked reviews will be conducted to the extent possible. Papers should be submitted to the Director of the Neuroscience Program, who will normally be responsible for coordinating the competition. In the event that more than one paper is submitted by a student, each will be judged separately. Having previously received the award does not exclude a student from receiving the award a second time for a different study. However, the same research project can be submitted only once for the award competition.

The sole basis for judging the research will be the paper submitted. Number of prior publications, acceptance of the paper for publication or presentation at a meeting, and similar factors will not be taken into account. Likewise, academic standing and scholarship factors such as grade point averages will not be considered. Classification in college will not be considered; there is no requirement that the student be a graduating senior. Students who have graduated in December are eligible to submit a project during the academic year of their graduation.

There is no requirement that an award be presented each year; in unusual circumstances more than one award may be presented in the same year.

Outstanding Neuroscience Academic Achievement Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize a Neuroscience senior who has achieved and maintained academic excellence.

Criteria for Eligibility:

A potential recipient of this award must be a senior Neuroscience major who meets the following criteria:

- a. The recipient of the award must be a declared Neuroscience major and have senior standing with a documented actual/anticipated graduation date of December, May, or August of the academic year designated for the award.
- b. Total credit hours completed:
 - For December graduates, a minimum of 60 semester hours overall completed at Loyola University by the end of the Fall semester of the academic year designated for the award.
 - For May or August graduates, a minimum of 45 semester hours overall completed at Loyola University by the end of the Fall semester, with an anticipated minimum total of 60 semester hours in this category by graduation.
- c. Major credit hours completed:
 - For December graduates, a minimum of 36 semester hours in Neuroscience completed at Loyola University by the end of the Fall semester of the academic year designated for the award.
 - For May or August graduates, a minimum of 30 semester hours in Neuroscience completed at Loyola University by the end of the Fall semester, with an anticipated minimum total of 36 semester hours in this category by graduation.

Criteria for Selection:

The recipient of this annual award shall be that eligible Neuroscience senior who has earned the highest Loyola GPA by February 1st of the designated academic year. A minimum GPA of 3.50 is required. This determination is to be made by the Director of the Neuroscience Program with corroboration from Student Records. Identification of the award recipient shall be announced immediately to the Neuroscience Advisory Committee by the Director once the corroboration is received.