

Appendix G

Request for Authorization to Establish a Master of Science in Neurobiology Degree at UNC-Chapel Hill

Introduction

UNC-Chapel Hill requests authorization to establish an MS in Neurobiology degree (CIP 26.0906) effective April 2008.

Program Description

The proposed degree will certify that students have achieved a high level of knowledge in clinical and basic neurosciences but without the rigorous research experience required of the PhD degree. All graduates will pass the same coursework as taken by PhD candidates and will write a Master of Science thesis. The overall goal of the Neurobiology Curriculum is interdisciplinary training in understanding the biological basis of behavior and neuropsychiatric disease at the cellular and molecular levels.

Program Need

The Curriculum's primary goal is to graduate scientists who have earned the PhD degree and are able to conduct an independent research program or similar professional tasks. The MS degree is proposed because some students may realize during the early conduct of their PhD research that they do not have the interest or motivation required for a successful independent research career. They will, however, have demonstrated scientific competence in the neurosciences through their coursework and other training activities, and the MS degree will provide recognition of these achievements and assist these students in their professional careers. Very rarely there may be applicants who only wish to earn the MS degree, but the Curriculum will not recruit for this track. Having the option available, however, may occasionally be important as a service to students and to North Carolina.

Resources

No resources are required other than those currently being used.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the UNC-Chapel Hill request to establish a Master of Science degree in Neurobiology (CIP 26.0906) effective April 2008.