

**Neuroscience (CNUP)**  
Updated December 2022

**Program director(s)**

Rob Turner; [rturner@pitt.edu](mailto:rturner@pitt.edu)

Oliver Schluter; [schluter@pitt.edu](mailto:schluter@pitt.edu)

**Program coordinator(s)**

Patti Argenzio; [argenzio@pitt.edu](mailto:argenzio@pitt.edu)

Leesa DiBartola; [LMD160@pitt.edu](mailto:LMD160@pitt.edu)

**MSTP student representatives (point of contact for more information)**

Talia Adi; [taa92@pitt.edu](mailto:taa92@pitt.edu)

Kevin Dowling; [kfd10@pitt.edu](mailto:kfd10@pitt.edu)

**Application requirement?**

No

**Graduate stipend (as of academic year 2022-2023)**

\$33,360 (matches SOM guidelines)

**Enrichment funds**

\$2000, although students have stated this is incredibly unclear and not voluntarily advertised

**Health insurance coverage?**

Covered by graduate program with option to enroll in vision/dental for extra \$

**Health insurance enrollment deadline**

The enrollment period is typically August 1 - September 30

**Does health insurance change if student is on a training grant or fellowship?**

Yes; students will have to pay for insurance upfront and receive reimbursement from training grant or fellowship

**If awarded an F30/1, does the grad program decide how the institutional allowance is spent**

Yes

**Internal funding sources**

T32s that are typically topic specific (e.g., pain research, auditory research, neurodegenerative diseases, etc.)

**Incoming graduate student orientation?**

Yes, the CNUP program orientation typically is held during the week before fall term begins. MSTP students are invited and expected to attend.

**Coursework registration dates**

Registration for courses occurs in August immediately before the start of the fall semester (approximately 1-2 weeks before classes start)

**Course requirements for MSTP**

Proseminar (first semester)

CNUP journal club (every semester until dissertation proposal)

Neurobiology seminar series (every semester)

6 elective credits

Core courses, statistics, and grant writing course requirements are waived for MSTP students.

**Milestones for MSTP students**

These are the accelerated milestones for MSTP students, but they are not made clear and should be explicitly asked for:

Preliminary exam (fall semester of G1 year)

Research evaluation (summer of G1 year)

Comprehensive exam (fall of G2 year)

Dissertation proposal and advancement to PhD candidacy (4-6 months after comprehensive exam)

Dissertation defense (typically >1 year after proposal)

**Required semesterly courses**

MSTP students are required to attend CNUP journal club every term until successful dissertation proposal and advancement to candidacy. Attendance is at least 6 research seminars per term.

Neurobiology seminar series are also taken every semester.

**Teaching requirement**

No; TA service is optional for MSTP students.

**How does the graduate program assess whether MSTP students are on track**

Every July, students submit a written progress report, and the student's PhD mentor submits a progress report. Evaluation committee provides feedback letter to student in August.

**Required meetings outside of thesis mentor**

G1 students are expected to meet individually with a program director for orientation and discussion of training plan. For MSTP students who have advanced to candidacy, annual thesis committee meetings are required. Bi-annual meetings with faculty committee recommended.