Advising

Students in the MS Program in Cognitive Neuroscience are advised about program coursework and thesis requirements by Professor Tony Ro, the director of the program, by Wanda Mercado, the Assistant Program Office of the neuroscience-related programs at the Graduate Center, as well as by their research/thesis advisor. Students’ thesis advisors are primarily selected based on mutual common research interests between the students and faculty members of this program. Most students are admitted and enroll in the program with a research advisor pairing, although some students may require a semester or two of courses to refine their research interests and secure a research advisor.

All students meet with Professor Tony Ro prior to registering for each of the first three semesters of this program. Because most of the students in this master’s program are enrolled on a full-time basis, coursework, but not research, is typically completed in three semesters. Students beyond their third semester in the program are given the option of continued in-person advising prior to registration for each semester. Each student’s progress is monitored at these meetings to ensure satisfactory progress through the program and feedback is given regarding the student’s progress.

The primary learning goals of these advising procedures are: 1) the appropriate selection of coursework for each semester, and 2) an understanding of the remaining requirements for successful completion of the program.

Mentoring

Students typically receive informal tiered and peer mentoring from doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in their respective laboratories. There is a new Neuroscience doctoral program proposal awaiting approval from Interim President Jim Muyskens, which will formalize this mentoring structure and will include the assignment of mentors to students who come from different levels of training and from different laboratories.

Students also receive mentoring from their research/thesis advisors, as well as from Professor Tony Ro. Beginning in the fall 2020 semester, the neuroscience-related doctoral programs at the Graduate Center will have a faculty member liaison, Professor Hysell Oviedo, who will meet with all neuroscience doctoral students regularly to ensure their adequate progress. Depending on the level of integration of this master’s program with the neuroscience doctoral programs, master’s students may also have the opportunity to meet with the faculty liaison to receive further mentoring.

The primary learning goal of this mentoring structure is the personal and professional development of the students through access to mentors with varying backgrounds, perspectives, and levels of expertise.

Advising and mentoring in these forms continues for all students, even after students select a thesis advisor. To further inform students and faculty members of academic requirements and regulations, the MS Program in Cognitive Neuroscience has extensive documentation and forms on our website (https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Masters-Programs/Cognitive-Neuroscience).