

## Neuroscience 1<sup>st</sup> year Graduate Student Rotation Requirement Rules

During the first year of graduate study, each neuroscience graduate student spends three 10-12-week periods performing research projects in different faculty laboratories. The goal is to expose students to different techniques and approaches in neuroscience and to provide training in experimental design, critical analysis of data, and presentation of research findings. Performance in rotations is evaluated and graded. Rotations also allow students to identify the laboratory in which their thesis research will be performed. During the Spring semester, students formally present results from the laboratory rotations in a dedicated course designed to train students in clear, effective presentation of scientific findings.

The program has the following set of rules and guidelines for laboratory rotations:

1. Rotation assignments for the Fall and Spring semesters are made by the Graduate Advisers Committee and are based on student preferences and availability of space in faculty laboratories. While students and program faculty are encouraged to discuss potential rotation projects, they should not enter into private agreements about rotation assignments.
2. A student may participate in an early rotation starting in July of the entering year. Both the rotation faculty mentor and the head graduate adviser need to pre-approve this option. At the beginning of the fall semester the student can request either to continue in the same laboratory through the first rotation, or alternatively to rotate in another laboratory(ies). Regardless of summer rotations, all students are required to rotate in 3 different laboratories during the regular school year.
3. To maximize the opportunities afforded by the laboratory rotations, a student who was either an undergraduate or research assistant working in a Berkeley Neuroscience faculty laboratory will not be permitted to rotate in the undergraduate mentor's laboratory. However, a student in this situation is free to choose his/her undergraduate laboratory for his/her thesis dissertation research at the end of the normal rotation period.
4. A student may elect to participate in a 4<sup>th</sup> laboratory rotation following the normal rotation period if s/he is unable to find a suitable laboratory for his/her thesis dissertation research.

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