

# Behaviour, Cognition & Neuroscience

*Made in Windsor.*



[uwindsor.ca/bcn](http://uwindsor.ca/bcn)



Behaviour, Cognition  
& Neuroscience  
Experience Map



University  
of Windsor

## Highlights and Skills

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience <sup>①</sup>

Why do we do what we do? Find out more about neuroscience, the brain, and study of the nervous system in this acclaimed program that probes the three areas of BCN (behaviour, and cognition, neuroscience) through the study of biology related to the brain and the biological aspects of psychology. You'll even study of animal behaviour, including birds and fish in their natural environment. If you're interested in both biology and psychology, this research-based program with a low faculty-to-student ratio is for you.

**MIN. AVG.\* 70% ONTARIO COURSE REQUIREMENTS** ENG4U, MHF4U, SCH4U and SBI4U. MCV4U is strongly recommended. SPH4U is recommended. A minimum 70% average of all attempted science and math courses is also required, excluding MDM4U.

<sup>①</sup> Honours – 4-year program

\* Minimum grade point average for admission to program. A higher average may be required.

### FUNCTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- Understanding and analyzing how the brain works from the cellular level all the way up to human and animal behaviour
- Operating advanced scientific laboratory equipment and instruments
- Formulating, organizing, and maintaining detailed data records; performing statistical analyses
- Designing experimental studies to accomplish targeted goals or test specific hypotheses
- Taking careful measurements and recording precise observations using best practices/field techniques
- Understanding relevant topics in the medical and health sciences with depth and nuance

## Build your Skills and Experience

Your UWindsor experience is more than attending classes. It is a combination of academics, co-curricular activities, and extracurricular involvement. By making the most of all three elements of your university experience, you will maximize your opportunities to build your skills, broaden your personal network, and clarify your long term academic and career goals.



#### CURRICULUM

Courses of study specific to each program



#### CO-CURRICULAR

Activities and experiences that complement coursework (Outstanding Scholars, peer mentoring, VIP)



#### EXTRACURRICULAR

Activities falling outside the scope of set curriculum (Part-time job, clubs, volunteering, athletics)

## Career Planning Cycle

Intentional career planning will help you prepare for your next step after graduation and beyond. It is a fluid, dynamic, and lifelong process. You can move on or return to an earlier stage in the cycle at any time.



## Explore Opportunities Using This Chart

Explore a selection of opportunities recommended for students in your program. This chart shows some of your many options – you don't have to do everything on it or limit yourself to it. Engage in opportunities from each of the three categories to set yourself up for success.

### High-Impact Practice (HIP)

A HIP is an enriching educational experience that can be life-changing and often includes learning outside of the classroom while encouraging meaningful interaction and collaboration, such as:

- Co-op, internship or field experiences
- Research with faculty
- Culminating senior experience
- Capstone courses
- Service-learning
- Learning communities
- Study abroad

## Academics


Your Coursework




### First Year

- Take first year required courses including Cell Biology, Biological Diversity, General Chemistry I and II, and Introduction to Psychology (Fall and Winter)
- Review degree course requirements for all years of study and mesh them with professional or graduate school aspirations
- Meet with BCN academic advisors in Biology or Psychology (strongly recommended)
- Learn more about your program and campus during **Welcome Week**, including participating in the **PASS** program that will coach you on skills necessary to be a successful Faculty of Science student
- Receive peer mentorship from an upper-year **MySci** advisor

### Middle Years

- Take required courses, including those that focus on specific aspects of brain function at the molecular, behavioural and cognitive levels. Courses include principles of neuroscience, behavioural neurobiology, excitable cells, cognitive processes, biology of the synapse
- Consider declaring a minor and/or specialization
- Check in with BCN academic advisor to make sure you are on the right path
- Meet professors you are considering working with for your final year research project 
- Continue taking courses required as preparation for professional schools
- Study for and take professional school admission tests of interest


### Final Year




- Complete all required courses for your degree
- Prepare a research-based thesis in behaviour, cognition, or neuroscience (as required for program)
- Meet with an academic advisor to go over graduation requirements
- Apply to graduate through **UWinsite Student**
- Apply your knowledge through a field work or practicum course to culminate your senior experience 

## Experience

Ways To Get Involved



- Attend biweekly BCN seminars to hear about world-renowned neuroscience research
- Join clubs such as the **BCN Students' Association**, **Science Society** or **Psychology Student Association**
- Begin the process of becoming a **LEAD Medallion Scholar** (in accordance with *Leadership, Engagement, Application, Discover*) - participate in credit and volunteer activities such as being *Engaged* by volunteering in a lab to help with research for professors and graduate students and/or *Discover* research opportunities as part of the **Outstanding Scholars** program 
- Join the **USci Network** to take part in collaborative and integrative science experiences
- Apply for a co-curricular experience such as **VIP - Community Service Learning**
- Participate in the **Bystander Initiative** workshop to gain skills that will help you be an effective and supportive ally to prevent sexual assault on campus

- Take part in bi-weekly BCN colloquia in current behaviour, cognitive and neuroscience research
- Continue the process of becoming a **LEAD Medallion Scholar** in ways such as *Applying* your knowledge through a summer research assistant or teaching assistant position within the Biology Department, becoming *Engaged* through service learning opportunities with **Let's Talk Science** and **Science Rendezvous**, and gaining valuable *Leadership* skills through roles within a club or society 
- Participate in **UWill Discover** undergraduate research conference 
- Gain a **Global Perspective of Science (GPS)** through an international exchange or by studying abroad 
- Expand your skills by taking on a summer, part-time or volunteer position

- Conduct research with a faculty member 
- Join a professional association in your field such as the **Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association**
- Attend **Ontario Biology Day** to present thesis research 
- Become a **MySci** advisor to provide academic support and mentorship for first year students
- Become a tutor for **Students Offering Support (SOS)** 
- Complete **LEAD Medallion Scholars** in two areas for Bronze, three areas for Silver, or four areas for Gold in accordance with *Leadership, Engagement, Application, Discover* 

## Career

Plan Ahead For What's Next



- Analyze the requirements for graduate or professional schools
- Start by making a list of things that you enjoy and areas in which you excel.
- Get involved with a part-time job, volunteer opportunity, campus group, or research assistantship
- Meet with a career advisor in **Career Development and Experiential Learning (CDEL)** for help developing a plan for your future years, including attending a career assessment appointment, attending workshops to learn how to find a summer or part-time job and write a university-level resumé, and chat with an advisor during CDEL's drop-in hours to get answers to your career and job search questions

- Explore further educational opportunities by attending the **Graduate and Professional Schools Fair** and researching admission requirements for programs you are interested in
- If you are considering applying to graduate or professional school, be aware of early application deadlines
- Explore opportunities and meet potential employers by participating in **Job Shadow Experience**, job fairs and industry networking events
- Research career fields and occupations with the help of a **CDEL** career advisor
- Create a **LinkedIn** profile and have it critiqued by **CDEL**
- Take part in informational interviews and join online communities like **LinkedIn** and **Ten Thousand Coffees** to connect with people in your targeted profession or industry
- Search job postings to learn what skills, knowledge, and credentials you will need for potential careers

- Compose a portfolio of relevant academic and work experience
- Set up a mock interview with a career advisor for professional school or job applications
- Take part in recruitment events and job fairs, including those organized by **CDEL**
- Meet with **CDEL** to prepare application documents like a resumé, cover letter, CV, or personal statement for jobs and education programs you are applying to
- Attend **CDEL**'s workshops on interview skills and job search strategies
- Explore professional development opportunities through **Continuing Education**

# Life After Graduation



The Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience program provided me with invaluable academic opportunities. An early integration into research combined with the unremitting support from admirable faculty truly inspired my passion for science and discovery. I have gained so much from this program and will continue to apply my experiences in research and medicine."

*Jessica Garabon – BSc (Honours) in Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience*

**18** Number of Graduates  
(2018)

**93.6%** Employment Rate of Graduates

Employment rate of graduates 2 years following degree completion (OUGS Biological Sciences, 2018)

## Career Tracks\*

Audiologist  
Child and youth worker  
Clinical psychologist  
Clinical research assistant  
Community development worker  
Counsellor  
Doctor  
Forensic scientist

Lab technician  
Laboratory supervisor  
Lawyer  
Marine biologist  
Medical director  
Microbiologist  
Neurologist  
Neuroscientist

Optometrist  
Pharmaceutical salesperson  
Pharmacist  
Pharmacologist  
Physician's assistant  
Professor  
Psychiatrist  
Public health educator

Public policy analyst  
Research psychologist  
Science journalist  
Neuroscience researcher  
Toxicologist  
Veterinarian

\*Additional education and/or training required for some of the above careers.



## Common Industries For Graduates

- **Academia:** advanced research in neuroscience, cognition, animal behaviour, human behaviour
- **Biomedical and biotechnical research**
- **Education:** curriculum design, teaching
- **Government:** research and policy development
- **Industry:** consultation, product development/testing
- **Medicine and dentistry**
- **Other healthcare professions**
- **Psychology practice:** private, healthcare, corrections
- **Social service and community agencies**

## Career-Readiness Competencies



Critical Thinking & Problem Solving



Professionalism & Work Ethic



Teamwork & Collaboration



Communication





# Campus Resources

- Research scholarships and bursaries through the **Student Awards and Financial Aid Office**
- Visit **Leddy Library** and the **Writing Support Desk** for help with academic assignments
- Check out the **Bounce Back** program designed to improve academic performance as well as decrease feelings of stress and anxiety through both effective learning strategies and life skills acquisition
- Build leadership skills and find leadership opportunities at the **Leadership Hub**
- Get advice and support about your academic status by making an appointment with **Academic Advising**
- Seek out assistance with academic accommodation from **Student Accessibility Services**
- Discover ways to get involved on campus through the **Student Success and Leadership Centre**
- Look into the **Ignite: Work Study** program for on-campus employment opportunities
- Get assistance developing your career plan and job search skills from **Career Development and Experiential Learning**
- Consult with the **EPICentre** if you are interested in starting your own business
- Broaden your cultural awareness through the **International Student Centre** and **Student Exchange Office**
- Find support for Indigenous learners and broaden your understanding of Indigenous culture by visiting **Turtle Island**
- Tend to your health and wellness with support from **Student Health Services**, the **Wellness Outreach Office** and **Lancer Recreation**
- Receive confidential mental health counselling delivered by trained professionals at the **Student Counselling Centre**
- **Prevent.Resist.Support.** Seek personal support or learn more about sexual violence prevention and resistance education through the **Sexual Misconduct Response and Prevention Office**
- Explore professional development opportunities through **Continuing Education**



[experience.uwindsor.ca](https://experience.uwindsor.ca)

## Student Recruitment

Phone: 519-973-7014

Toll-Free: 1-800-864-2860

Email: [info@uwindsor.ca](mailto:info@uwindsor.ca)

## Department of Biological Sciences

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 2695

Email: [biosci@uwindsor.ca](mailto:biosci@uwindsor.ca)

## Department of Psychology

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 2217

Email: [psychology@uwindsor.ca](mailto:psychology@uwindsor.ca)

## Career Development and Experiential Learning

Phone: 519-253-3000, Ext. 3895

Email: [careerservices@uwindsor.ca](mailto:careerservices@uwindsor.ca)