

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN:

NEUROSCIENCE

Career Center for Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota
50 Lind Hall/ 207 Church Street SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-624-4090
ccse@umn.edu
ccse.umn.edu

Activities Neuroscience Majors Do

Neuroscience is a field of study that employs the tools and perspectives of biology, psychology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and medicine. The goal of neuroscience is to understand the brain and behavior, how we perceive, move, think and remember. Important aspects of the study of behavior can be examined at the level of individual nerve cells, their properties and the ways they communicate with one another. It is also possible now to address these basic issues directly at the molecular level. Many aspects of the biological basis of behavior are studied by examining specific functions of nervous systems and the behavior they produce. Neuroscientists often specialize in a particular area, such as:

Developmental Neuroscience:	Understanding of how the brain grows and changes
Cognitive Neuroscience:	Understanding of perception and memory
Behavioral Neuroscience:	Understanding of the processes underlying human behavior
Clinical Neuroscience:	Develop diagnostic methods to prevent and treat neurological disorders.

Neuroscience can be combined with other fields, such as Computer Science and Mathematics, Psychology, or Cell or Molecular Biology. This may lead to interdisciplinary options, such as computational neuroscience or cellular neurobiology. Neuroscience majors may pursue advanced studies in graduate or professional school and choose career paths in medicine, psychology, research, or teaching. Some may choose to obtain a position in industry, such as in the pharmaceutical or biotechnology industries and can use their knowledge and skills in using scientific equipment, understanding biological theories, and designing experiments and recording results.

Industries Neuroscience Majors Work In (Sample Listing)

Biotechnology	Genetic Engineering Companies	Hospitals
Public Health	Mental Health Clinics	Clinical Psychology
National Research Centers	Medical Instruments	Pharmaceutical Firms
Universities and Colleges	Social Services Agencies	Veterans Administrations

Employers Who Hire Neuroscience Majors (Sample Listing)

Allina Hospitals & Clinics	Hennepin County Medical Center	Mayo Clinic
St. Jude Medical	US Fish and Wildlife Services	ViaGen, Inc.
Vascular Solutions	Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for Minnesota	

Types of Positions for Neuroscience Majors (Sample Listing)

Information on this page was compiled from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance, Society for Neuroscience, University of Minnesota departmental websites, and student-reported data.

Clinical Research Associate: Sets up, monitors, and completes clinical trials.

Toxicologists: Plans and carries out laboratory and field studies to identify, monitor, and evaluate the impact of toxic materials and radiation on human and animal health, the environment, and the impact of future technology.

Neurobiologists: Studies the biological factors that impact learning or mood.

Neurologists: Doctors who treat disorders of the nervous system (including brain, nerves, and the spinal cord).

Neuropathologists: Doctors who analyze medical scans and tissue samples to help with the diagnosis of a patient.

Neurosurgeons: Doctors who perform surgery on the brain and spine.

Neuroscientists: Use tools such as antibodies and gene probes to isolate and identify proteins and other molecules responsible for brain function.

Medical/Pharmaceutical Sales: Works strategically to increase the awareness and use of a company's pharmaceutical and medical products.

Psychologists: Scientists who study behavior--work usually involves teaching, research, or social service in schools, clinics, government agencies, and private industry.

Psychiatrists: Physicians who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental disorders.

Science Teacher: Develops and teaches science curriculum which includes scientific experiments.

Examples from: Society for Neuroscience

Some of these positions may require an advanced degree

Useful Websites for Neuroscience Majors

Neuroscience News	www.neurosciencenews.com
New Scientist Jobs	www.newscientistjobs.com
Science Careers	www.sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/
Life Science Alley	www.lifesciencealley.org/ (contact the CCSE for login info.)
BioBusiness Alliance of MN	www.biobusinessalliance.org/
Medzilla	www.medzilla.com
Biology Jobs	www.biologyjobs.com
BioCareers	www.biocareers.com
Hire Bio	www.hirebio.com
Lab Support	www.oalabsupport.com

Professional Organizations:

American Neurological Association	www.aneuroa.org
American Association of Neurological Sciences	www.aans.org
American Academy of Neuroscience	www.aan.com
McKnight Endowment Fund for Neuroscience	www.mcknight.org/neuroscience/
American Institute of Biological Sciences	www.aibs.org
International Brain Research Association	www.ibro.org
Society for Neuroscience	www.sfn.org
National Science Foundation	www.nsf.gov
Society of Experiential Biology and Medicine	www.sebm.org
Association for Women in Science	www.awis.org

additional job/internship search websites and resources at: ccse.umn.edu

See the Major Binders available in the CCSE's Resource Center (50 Lind Hall) for more information about this major and career.

Information on this page was compiled from the Occupational Outlook Handbook, the Encyclopedia of Careers and Vocational Guidance, Society for Neuroscience, University of Minnesota departmental websites, and student-reported data.