Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Social, Cognitive, and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN) Certificate

The purpose of the certificate is to serve as a catalyst for matriculated doctoral students in Psychological and Brain Sciences (PBS) to structure their electives to promote study in a cross-disciplinary/cross-area theme of social, cognitive, and affective neuroscience (SCAN) within the PBS department. Students in SCAN declare a major and minor program of study (chosen from Cognitive, Social, Clinical and Behavioral Neuroscience). In addition to completing required coursework in the chosen major program of study, two elective courses need to be chosen that represent the minor program of study with one elective related to SCAN research topics. Each SCAN student is also required to participate in at least one research project that cuts across two labs in the SCAN areas.

**Coursework for the Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN) Certificate**

Students in SCAN need to declare a major and minor program of study, chosen from Cognitive, Social, Clinical and Behavioral Neuroscience. For example, a student might choose Cognitive for the Major and Social for the minor. Each SCAN student will be assigned a faculty advisor from each program of study (as part of a student’s Advisory Committee) who will help them choose relevant required and elective courses. In addition to completing required coursework in the chosen major program of study, two elective courses need to be chosen that represent the minor program of study. One of these electives should also be related to SCAN research topics. The particular courses need to be approved by the student’s Advisory Committee.

Each SCAN student is also required to participate in at least one research project that cuts across two labs in the SCAN areas (enrolling in 3 credits of *PSYC 801: Laboratory Rotation*). This collaboration could involve using the primary PI’s methods to investigate theoretical predictions from a model associated with a faculty member in another area. For example, a student might use methods such as time-frequency analysis that were developed in one lab in the social area to investigate statistical learning that was being studied using fMRI in the cognitive area. The goal of the collaborative project is to combine theories, expertise, and methods across areas.

A written proposal of the planned coursework to obtain the SCAN Certificate should be submitted to the Director of Graduate Education. The Graduate Committee will review the proposal. Once the proposal is reviewed by the Graduate Committee, the student will be notified via email whether the plan is approved; if not, the student will receive feedback if the plan needs to be revised.

WHEREAS,   the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences (PBS) in the College of Arts and Sciences has offered a successful program for the PhD with concentrations in either Behavioral Neuroscience, Clinical Science, Cognitive Psychology, or Social Psychology, and

WHEREAS,   PBS has proposed a Social, Cognitive, and Affective (SCAN) Certificate, which will serve as a catalyst for matriculated doctoral students in PBS to structure their electives to promote study in a cross-disciplinary/cross-area theme of SCAN within the PBS department, and

WHEREAS,   the existing graduate program in PBS already provides all the courses and administrative framework for such a certificate, and

WHEREAS,   the proposed certificate contributes to one of the milestones on the University’s “path to prominence” to achieve excellence in professional education; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommends provisionally for five years the approval of the establishment of a SCAN Certificate in PBS.