

Appendix 14 – NSCS Student Club Engagement Activities

NSCS students and faculty participate in community building activities both within the University and in the local Tucson Community. NSCS student leadership in these areas is exemplified by two student-run clubs and participation in the Center for Neuroscience Foundation community outreach activities.

Neuroscience and Cognitive Science Association of Students (NSCSAS)

Founded in 2009, this club is open to all students in the major with minimal annual dues of \$18 per semester or \$30 per academic year, but students in financial need receive waivers. As of fall 2024, the club is currently comprised of 150 total students. It is run by an oversight board of students democratically elected annually by their fellow students with published constitutional bylaws approved by The Associated Students of the University of Arizona (ASUA). Activities are geared towards professional development and social opportunities that engage the broader community. Student alumni from the NSCS program along with current faculty and individuals from non-academic STEM/health fields are recruited to speak on career development panels. Students engage in service-oriented activities including blood drives, volunteering at various marathons, working with the Center for Neurosciences to improve brain health awareness in the Tucson community such as through Brain Bus, working with Habitat for Humanity and in soup kitchens to help the homeless community, running a community garden, volunteering at athletic events (Tucson Marathon, cycle race El Tour de Tucson), and doing fundraising for the local community on mental health initiatives, stocking the campus pantry food, organized walks for Alzheimer's research, etc. The Club also raises funds and runs an application and selection process open to all students in the major to be fully funded to attend the Society for Neuroscience annual conference. Club activities and achievements of its students are publicized via Instagram, Facebook page, and their website: <https://www.nscsas.org/>. Faculty advisor: Julie Miller.

Nu Rho Psi (NRP)

Nu Rho Psi is an alpha chapter of the only nation-wide Neuroscience Honor Society. Club members are elected through a democratic process with self-nominations and voting being done through the student membership as with the NSCSAS club. There are two ways to join NRP – through pre-membership or membership. Membership requires one to have an undergraduate cumulative GPA of 3.2, a minimum GPA of 3.5 in NSCS/Neuroscience coursework, be enrolled at the university for three semesters, be majoring or minoring in NSCS or Neuroscience, and have taken at least nine credit hours of major specific credit which can include courses, research, and preceptorships. As a pre-member, there are no official requirements. The student board is currently revising the application and interview process for membership. NRP focuses on professional development and improving the student's academic success in the major and also post-graduation. They help connect students with medical professionals (e.g. MDs, DO, Nursing), PhDs, industry professionals, etc and are focused on creating more social, small group connections with these professionals through monthly lunches, and a journal club. In the journal club for example, students interact with medical professionals to discuss case studies of patients seen at local hospitals. Faculty advisor: Julie Miller.

The Center for Neurosciences Foundation

NSCS students and faculty affiliation with The Center for Neurosciences Foundation (<https://www.eachbrainmatters.org/>) began in 2010 led by former NSCS Program Director Dr. Lynne Oland who is still active in these efforts with current NSCS students. They run a mobile neuroscience laboratory, the 'Brain Bus' that provides neuroscience educational materials and activities to the local Tucson community, spanning elementary, middle, and high schools, festivals

(e.g. Science Fairs, Tucson Festival of Books, Insect Festival) and includes development of these materials through partnerships between students and senior citizens (Covenant House, etc). There are also local school visits under the 'Social and Emotional Neurodevelopment' Program (<https://www.eachbrainmatters.org/copy-of-library>).