UCLA Admission Recommendation - Cooper Beaman

1 message

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>   Fri, Feb 10, 2023 at 3:53 PM
To: "cooperbeaman@gmail.com" <cooperbeaman@gmail.com>
Cc: "felixs@g.ucla.edu" <felixs@g.ucla.edu>

Sent on behalf of Prof. Felix Schweizer, Department Chair UCLA Interdepartmental PhD Program in Neuroscience (NSIDP)

Dear Cooper,

It is a pleasure to inform you that the Admissions Committee has enthusiastically recommended your admission to the NSIDP graduate program at UCLA.   An official e-mail from UCLA's Division of Graduate Education will be forthcoming pending review of your academic record.

A follow-up e-mail with details about the financial support package is also forthcoming. Thank you for your patience while that is being prepared.

On **March 10**, we will be hosting an on-campus visit and would love to welcome you to campus. Information regarding the visit can be found here and we ask that you RSVP no later than February 15. RSVP the sooner the better, and we will follow-up with more detailed instructions on Airfare/Travel arrangements. If you have plans to connect your visit to UCLA with other campus visits before or after, let me know so we can coordinate your travel.

Please let us know if you have any questions. In addition, we can assist with connecting you with some of our faculty & graduate students to help you make an informed decision about graduate school. While there is so much exciting information to share with you, for now; I have attached a timeline and summary of grad specific resources that UCLA offers.

I do hope that our recommendation will be approved and we will welcome you in the Fall of 2023 at UCLA.

Congratulations and all the best wishes.
Felix

March 10, RSVP Form
General Information March 10 Visit
Program Information for Prospective Students

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Felix E. Schweizer
Professor and Vice Chair for Education
Department of Neurobiology
Chair, Interdepartmental PhD Program in Neuroscience

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
650 Charles E. Young Drive South, CHS 63-323
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1763

phone: (310) 794-5733
http://www.schweizerlab.org
http://www.neuroscience.ucla.edu
http://www.grassfoundation.org

Sent by Jenny Lee (she/her)

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Program (NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

(310) 825-8153 p

(310) 206-5855 f

http://www.neuroscience.ucla.edu

UCLA Timeline and Resources.pdf
249K

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SANTA BARBAR

Cooper Beaman
1822 Fell St Apt 3
San Francisco, CA 94117-2039

UCLA ID: 105692562

Dear Cooper Beaman

Congratulations! As the Dean of the Graduate Division, I am pleased to extend your official offer of admission
to the Bioscience PhD - Neuroscience program at UCLA for the Fall of the 2023-2024 academic year. You have
been selected from a pool of exceptionally qualified applicants based on your academic achievements and
potential for advanced scholarship.

If you applied or are being considered for a fellowship, teaching assistantship or research assistantship, your
graduate program will inform you of the status of any award or appointment.

Action Items

- The **Graduate Admission Checklist** will tell what you need to do to matriculate as a student at UCLA.

- The deadline to accept this offer of admission is determined and shared by the department to which you
  applied. Please be sure to complete the **Statement of Intention to Register (SIR)** and **Statement of
  Legal Residence (SLR)** on the **MyUCLA** web page by that date. All students who intend to enroll at
  UCLA must complete the SLR.

- To finalize your admission, you must submit your final, official documentation from your baccalaureate
  institution showing that you have met admissions requirements. Your official documents must be
  received by your graduate program before the start of the term. More information can be found on your
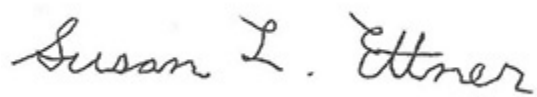 Graduate Admissions portal.

UCLA is one of the nation's most outstanding public universities, a hub that links our dynamic metropolis to the
Pacific Rim and the global community of scholars in every field. Our students and faculty address broad
societal questions, pioneer new technologies, advance medical knowledge and public health, excel in the arts,
create new fields of interdisciplinary scholarship, and enrich our community. We hope that UCLA will be the
place where you choose to continue your education and follow your path of discovery.

I encourage you to learn more about the program to which you have been admitted, our campus, and the Los

Angeles area by visiting UCLA either through our online resources or in person. If you accept this offer of admission, we will do our best to help you feel at home. The Graduate Division staff have prepared **orientation information** for new students, and the staff in your department and at the Graduate Student Association fall orientation event will introduce you to a wide range of academic, professional, social and cultural resources. Please accept my best wishes for success in your graduate studies. I look forward to welcoming you to UCLA.

Go Bruins!

With best wishes,

Susan L. Ettner
Dean, Division of Graduate Education

UCLA Neuroscience - Financial Support Information

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>   Mon, Mar 27, 2023 at 5:47 PM
To: "cooperbeaman@gmail.com" <cooperbeaman@gmail.com>

Hello Cooper,

I hope this e-mail finds you well and you have recovered without further complications from COVID-19.

The last few months have been a bit chaotic and my usual work flow has been out of sync when it comes to admissions. In looking back at my records, it seems I made an error and did not provide you with a financial support letter. For this oversight, I sincerely apologize.

Please find attached the financial offer information. If by now you have made a decision on a graduate program and it happens to not be UCLA, I totally understand that this information may be moot. However, if you are still weighing your options, I hope this information will be helpful in making your decision.

Sincerely,

Jenny

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Program (NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

(310) 825-8153 p

She/Her/Hers

📄 **UCLA NSIDP_Cooper Beaman.pdf**
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UCLA

SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine
INTERDEPARTMENTAL Ph.D. PROGRAM FOR NEUROSCIENCE

1329 Gonda Center
695 Charles E. Young Drive South
Los Angeles CA 90095-1761
phone: 310.825.8153
fax: 310.206.5855

February 20, 2023

Dear Cooper Beaman:

I am very pleased to let you know that your application to the Neuroscience Interdepartmental Ph.D. program (NSIDP), a Home Area in the UCLA Biosciences Program, has been enthusiastically approved by the NSIDP Admissions Committee and supported by the Division of Graduate Education.

We are excited about having you join the Neuroscience Interdepartmental Ph.D. Program and hope that you will accept the offer of admission to UCLA. We provide training and research opportunities to foster future leaders in both academia and industry. The NSIDP curriculum is vigorous and flexible to fit your individual needs. Your research and training will be supported by state-of-the-art facilities. As a student in a Bioscience Home Area, you also have the opportunity to obtain training beyond neuroscience and to explore different research areas e.g. by rotating in labs of other Bioscience Home Areas (http://bioscience.ucla.edu/home-areas).

In your first-year of study, your offer of financial support includes all required tuition, campus fees, student health insurance and a living allowance. You will receive a fellowship stipend at the 2023-24 annual rate of $40,651/taxable (~$3,387/month). You will also receive a one-time bridge fellowship of $3,000 (taxable) to assist in your transition to the graduate program. The bridge fellowship can be issued to you as early as August 2023.

If you receive funding from a fellowship or appointment to a training grant at any point during your time in the program, whether paid to you directly or through the university, all such funds will be applied towards your support package. Please refer to the attached document for additional information regarding your financial support package.

Official notification of admission and information regarding registration and enrollment was emailed to you from the UCLA Graduate Division Admissions Office upon final approval of our recommendation. Please read carefully the information provided by the Graduate Division, and complete the online forms to formally finalize your decision of our admission offer.

The Council of Graduate Schools has established a common deadline of April 15, 2023 for candidates to commit to the program of their choice. However, if you make your decision earlier than that, please let us know to help with our planning of the incoming cohort.

If you can join us during our scheduled on-campus visit for March 11, 2023, I look forward to meeting you then. We hope to welcome you and share more about our program and UCLA campus with you to assist you in making an informed decision.

Congratulations, and we look forward to welcoming you to our program. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Jenny Lee (310) 825-8153 (JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu) or myself, (310) 794-5733 (felixs@ucla.edu).

Sincerely,

Felix Schweizer, Ph.D., Chair
Interdepartmental Ph.D. Program for Neuroscience, UCLA

NSIDP Fellowship

Financial Support Package: Additional Information

Funding Offer
The Graduate Programs in Bioscience (GPB) offers financial support minimum of 5 years as described below. Any offer of financial support for each year of regular enrollment is contingent upon satisfactory academic progress and meeting the terms and conditions of the offer.

1. **Full Tuition and Fees**: We will cover 100% of tuition and campus fees. Any increases in tuition or campus fees will also be covered throughout the financial support period. The fees cover important services like access to the Graduate Student Resource, Writing, and Career Centers, access to campus recreational facilities and gyms.

2. **Student Health Insurance including Vision and Dental**: During the 5 years of the program, we will cover 100% of your student health insurance premium, which includes vision and dental coverage.

3. **Additional financial support**: In addition to covering your full tuition, fee, and student health insurance, additional financial support will be provided in each year of the financial support period, consisting of a combination of fellowships, offers to work as a graduate student Teaching Assistant (Academic Student Employees (ASEs), Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), summer support funding, and/or external awards.

4. **Non-Resident of California**: If you are a non-California resident, you will be assessed Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) for your first year. However, as part of your funding offer, in year one, GPB will pay this supplemental tuition on your behalf. All U.S. citizens and Permanent Residents are expected to establish California residency at the end of their first year of study and to maintain residency throughout their time in the program. NRST will not be paid for students beyond year one (except for international students who may not become California residents).

5. **International Student**: If you are an international student and you are not eligible to establish California residency, and thus you will be assessed additional Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) each quarter until you advanced to candidacy. Once you advanced to candidacy, your NRST will be waived for three years. During the years of study before you achieve candidacy, GPB will pay NRST on your behalf up to the Fall quarter of your third year. NRST will not be paid for students beyond the Fall quarter of the third year.

Eligibility for your financial support package
As a student affiliated with Graduate Programs in Bioscience, you are eligible to receive your financial support package for a minimum of five years provided that:
1. You are enrolled and making satisfactory academic progress toward a doctoral degree.
2. You are eligible to receive university fellowships and to work legally in the United States. Citizens and Permanent Residents of the United States, international students holding F-1 or J-1 visas, and students who qualify for California AB540 exemption **and** maintain continuous eligibility for employment under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy typically meet these eligibility requirements. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, you should contact your program.
3. (Domestic non-California residents only) You take the specific actions required during your first year to establish California residency for tuition purposes by the beginning of the Fall Quarter of your second year in your program.

Your first-year
Your first "year" of doctoral study consists of the nine-month academic year. It begins at the start of the Fall Quarter (mid-September) and ends at the conclusion of the Spring Quarter (mid-June), for a total of about three-quarters of a year. Therefore, over the course of this initial, partial-year period you will receive funding in addition to full

tuition/health care that is 75% of the annual (12-month) rate referenced in your offer letter. Your additional financial support for your second, full year and subsequent years will be at the prevailing annual (12-month) rate.

1. **Financial support payment:** During your first year your payment will be processed by the GPB office in the form of fellowship (institutional funds) and not contingent on employment or services to the University.

2. **One-time bridge fellowship**: You will also receive a one-time bridge fellowship of $3,000 (taxable) beginning your first year to assist in your transition to the graduate program.

Financial support from sources other than UCLA
Your offer of financial support is inclusive of all support received for the purpose of your graduate training, whether that support comes from the university or an outside organization or agency.

Stipend bonus opportunity
If you receive an individual extramural fellowship (e.g. from the NIH, NSF, or foreign government) and the stipend exceeds $18,000 per year, you will receive an additional stipend payment (currently $3,500) for each year that you receive funding from the fellowship. There are multiple resources at UCLA to help you prepare applications for such fellowships.

Support for travel to conferences and other scholarly activities
Funding for research-related travel is available from a variety of UCLA sources, including your program and mentor. In addition, the UCLA Graduate Division provides each doctoral student up to $1,000 over the course of their studies to support travel associated with conference attendance or other off-campus professional development activities.

Institutional training grants
In the second half of your first year, you will want to discuss opportunities for applying for a prestigious appointment to a training grant with your graduate advisor(s). These grants are awarded to an interdisciplinary cohort of faculty to provide specialized training to doctoral students in a targeted research area. Currently, UCLA holds over 20 institutional training grants that support students in different areas of bioscience research. Normally, appointments to these grants are restricted to US citizens and Permanent Residents, however, other trainees may be able to participate in training activities as associates. Any funding providing by training grants is considered part of your financial support package.

(Fall 2023 Cohort) Mentor/Mentee Agreement & Mentor Financial Support Agreement
5 messages

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>   Fri, May 17, 2024 at 1:19 PM
Cc: felixs@g.ucla.edu <felixs@g.ucla.edu>

Hello Year 1, soon to be Year 2 students!

As promised, here are "the forms." These are only to be used as references to help guide your talking points as you are solidifying your Mentee/Faculty Mentor partnerships. Please be sure to read and review the agreements with your Faculty Mentor.

- Mentor/Mentee Agreement
- Mentor Financial Support Agreement
- AAMC Compact Between Biomedical Graduate Students and Their Research Advisors

DocuSign: Provide the following information to me and then I will send a DocuSign request to obtain e-signatures on the actual agreements. You can copy/paste the following and e-mail me back:

1. Name of Faculty Mentor
2. Preferred E-mail for Faculty Mentor
3. Faculty Mentor's Home Department
4. Name of Department Chair for Faculty Mentor's Home Department

Please e-mail this information to me before May 31.

Extended Spring Rotation and/or 4th Summer Rotation For those who are in need of extending your Spring rotation or need to pursue a 4th rotation in a different lab, please e-mail me ASAP for further discussion.

Year 1 Financial Support: By now your last stipend for the month of June has credited your BruinBill. I am waiting on confirmation from GPB on what the plan is for your Year 2 support. I will be sure to update everyone as soon as I have that information. If your Faculty Mentor has questions about this and the GPB General Support, please refer them to me.

Let me know if you have any questions. I'm happy to meet with you individually and go over any questions you may have.

Take care,

Jenny

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Program (NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

Zoom ID: **569-756-2969**

(310) 825-8153 p

Mentee-Mentor Financial Support Agreement

Student Name: _____

Faculty Mentor Name: _____

Academic Title: _____ Department: _____

Faculty Mentor's Fund Manager Name: _____

POLICY ON STUDENT SUPPORT - PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

1st Year – The GRADUATE PROGRAM in BIOSCIENCES (GPB): The GPB ensures a stipend, fees, and nonresident tuition (if applicable) for the Student during the first 9 months of the 1st year of study.

2nd Year - FACULTY MENTOR & GPB (if applicable): At the end of the first year by July 1, by mutual agreement commence a Mentee-Mentor research apprenticeship, that produces a dissertation on original research that is related to the focused areas of research within neuroscience.

The financial support responsibility (Salary/Stipend and Tuition & Mandatory Campus Fee support) then shifts to the approved Faculty Mentor effective July 1 at the end of the 1st year of study. The Faculty Mentor assumes responsibility for the financial support of the Student through the 5th year of study and as long as the Student is making normative progress towards the doctoral degree as outlined in the official University Program Requirements for the Graduate NSIDP.
https://grad.ucla.edu/programs/david-geffen-school-of-medicine/neuroscience/

The NSIDP/GPB recommends financial support that is commensurate with a GSR appointment of Salary Point 4 at 50% FTE.

In the student's 2nd and 3rd year, GPB will provide general student support to offset faculty mentor's costs for students not otherwise supported by training grants or fellowships. The amount of general support will be determined each year. Eligibility will be reviewed by GPB prior to distribution of general support.

Extramural Funding
Students are strongly encouraged to apply for such support. Faculty Mentors are expected to support the student in this effort. Students are required to inform the NSIDP Office of any awarded scholarships or fellowships that are awarded.

Fellowship Incentive Program: Obtaining funding from extramural sources is not only a prestigious endeavor for students, but also reduces expenses incurred by the program and the faculty mentor. In recognition of this fact, students who secure annual extramural fellowships or scholarships of $18,000+ that are directed to defray the cost of stipend, tuition, and/or fees will receive an additional $3,500 of stipend support per annum from the GPB for each year of the extramural funding support. Each fall, the GPB office will send out a call for information regarding current extramural funding. NIH training grants (i.e. T32), and intramural fellowships (i.e. Dissertation Year Fellowship) are ineligible for the incentive program.

Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition (only for international students)
In addition, the GPB will provide funds to pay NRST for international students through the first quarter of the third year or until the student advances to candidacy, whichever occurs first.

We, the faculty mentor and department chair, guarantee that I currently have sufficient funding to support the student in their graduate training in Year 2 through Year 5. Full financial support includes student stipend/salary, tuition, and mandatory fees. Support that is covered under the GSR Collective Bargaining Unit (BX) may be subject to additional benefits. In the event I am unable to continue to provide funding support for this NSIDP graduate student(s) pursuing thesis work in my laboratory, I will work with the NSIDP program to identify additional funds from other sources (i.e. Training Grants, Extramural Fellowships, additional TAships). If, despite my best effort, sufficient funding cannot be provided, my home department will assume the responsibility of providing adequate funding to support a graduate student that is making normative progress in the degree program.

Student: _____ Date: _____

Faculty Mentor: _____ Date: _____

Department Chair: _____ Date: _____

Please return the completed form to the Graduate NSIDP Office by June 7, 2024.

☐ Review and Approved by NSIDP Chair
☐ Recorded _____

NSIDP Graduate Program Requirements / Mentor & Mentee Guidelines

Executive Summary: The Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (NSIDP) aims at training the next generation of scientists in the broad, and evolving area of neuroscience. This is achieved by a core course curriculum, supplemental courses and participation in research apprenticeship with faculty mentor(s). Students must complete a dissertation based on original research that is related to the focused areas of research within neuroscience. These areas are: Addiction; Learning & Memory; Neural Development, Degeneration, and Repair, Neuroendocrinology and Sex Differences; Neurogenetics; Neuroimaging, Synapses, Cells, and Circuits; Computational and Systems Neuroscience; and Neurotechnology.

Scholarship	Achieve at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all courses taken in graduate status at the University. Requirement for maintaining student status, fellowship, and employment eligibility.
Core Courses	Complete core courses (Neuro 201, M202, M203, 205) with achievement of at least a B- in these courses or repeat the course. Ethics, Methods and Literature Based Seminars (210ABC) to be completed as part of the first-year curriculum.
Research Rotations	Complete three research rotations with ladder Faculty in Fall, Winter and Spring of Year 1. (Neuro 596)
Dissertation/Research Mentorship/Evaluation	By mutual agreement identify a Faculty Mentor who will mentor and train in the scholarly development and scientific achievements as scientists. Research apprenticeship assessment and progress via Neuro 599.
Written Qualifying Exam (WQE)	Preparation begins in Summer following the 1st year of study and takes place in September prior to the start of the 2nd year of study. If remediation is required, a reasonable deadline to complete the remediation tasks will be provided.
Additional Course/Seminar Requirements	Review individual course audit for remaining course requirements. After the 1st year, the remaining course requirements are: (2) Electives, (5) 215 or similar seminars, (1) Biostats/Stats, (1) Grant Writing Seminar. Attendance at the weekly JSN is strongly encouraged. MSTP Students – refer to MSTP/NSIDP course requirements.
TA Requirement	1-Quarter Teaching or Equivalent Teaching Experience completed at UCLA required.
Nomination of Doctoral Committee	Following completion of the core courses and attaining a passing level on Written Qualifying Exam, a student with advisement from their Faculty Mentor identify at least three Faculty to serve on the Doctoral Committee that meet the Minimum Standards for Doctoral Committee Membership. The Faculty Mentor is the Chair (Co-Chairs) of the Doctoral Committee. Nomination and approval of the committee must take place prior to the Oral Qualifying Exam. Refer to the Doctoral Committee Membership guidelines set by the Division of Graduate Education.
Oral Qualifying Exam	Doctoral Committee Task: By the end of the 9th Quarter of study (Year 3) a student must complete the Oral Qualifying Exam requirement. Refer to "Instructions on the University Oral Qualifying Examination" document.
Yearly Assessment of Progress & Strengths	Mutual participation in a yearly assessment of progress & strengths. Assessment form will be provided by the NSIDP.
Annual Doctoral Committee Meeting	Doctoral Committee Task: Following the completion of the Oral Qualifying Exam, the Doctoral Committee will meet on an annual basis leading up to the Final Defense.
Dissertation Manuscript Draft	Doctoral Committee Task: Set a deadline for draft dissertation manuscript to be provided to the Doctoral Committee prior to the Final Defense (i.e. two weeks)
Final Defense	Normative Time to Degree: By the end of the 18th Quarter of Study (Year 6) complete the Final Defense. Maximum Time-to-Degree: By the end of the 21st Quarter of Study (year 7) complete the Final Defense with prior review and approval from the NSIDP.
Filing of Dissertation	Within the prescribed time-to-degree file dissertation based on eligibility criteria. Consult with the NSIDP Office regarding student eligibility or Filing Fee options.
	For detailed program requirements: https://grad.ucla.edu/programs/david-geffen-school-of-medicine/neuroscience/ All program requirements are subject to review to ensure timely progress. Leaves of Absences, In Absentia, Half-Time Status may have an impact on program requirements. Review individual cases with the NSIDP Office.

We encourage at this stage of the mentorship process to discuss the following areas to help facilitate the discussion of expectations and goals as it aligns with the program requirements. For a detailed framework for aligning the graduate student mentor-mentee relationship please refer to the AAMC Compact Between Biomedical Graduate Students and Their Research Advisors.

Please initial all 9 points below after you discussed them.

1. Aligning Expectations

2. Communication Expectations

3. Conflict Resolution

4. Lab Diversity/Philosophy/Culture

5. Training Plan (incl courses, meetings, etc.)

6. Research Plan

7. Conducting Research Plan

8. Publication and Presentation Plan

9. Faculty Mentor Home Department Contacts & Introductions (i.e. Lab Members and Department Chair, HR, Fund Manager)

Acknowledgement:
We have reviewed the remaining program requirements and have discussed expectations and initial goals for this mentor-mentee training partnership.

NSIDP Graduate Student (Print): _____

NSIDP Graduate Student (Signature): _____

Proposed Area of Research for the PhD Dissertation: _____

NSIDP Faculty Mentor/Co-Mentors (Print): _____

NSIDP Faculty Mentor/Co-Mentors (Signatures): _____

Cooper - Academic Plan Letter

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>   Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 4:03 PM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: "felixs@g.ucla.edu" <felixs@g.ucla.edu>

Hello Cooper,

Thank you for meeting with us today and sharing the good news.

The attached letter summarizes your academic progress up until now and some goals for the upcoming Winter Quarter. Please review the letter and let me know if you have any questions or want to discuss any adjustments to the timeline.

Next steps, Felix will confirm with Carrie the logistics for your Winter rotation. And I will provide you with a separate update on your financial support.

Best wishes as you are wrapping up your Fall Quarter courses and begin to organize yourself for your upcoming rotation.

Jenny

Jenny Lee (She/Her)

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (G-NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

(310) 825-8153 p

📄 **Academic Plan_Cooper Beaman.pdf**
226K

INTERDEPARTMENTAL Ph.D. PROGRAM FOR NEUROSCIENCE

The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
1506A Gonda Center
695 Charles E. Young Drive South
Los Angeles CA 90095-1761
Phone: 310.825.8153
Fax: 310.206.5855
Email: neurophd@mednet.ucla.edu

November 19, 2024

UID: 105692562

Dear Cooper Beaman,

After careful review of your academic progress, you are not making satisfactory progress towards your doctoral degree in Neuroscience. This assessment is based upon your failure to meet the required benchmarks for graduate students in Neuroscience, as stipulated in the Program Requirements for your matriculation year AY 2023-24:

- The Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (NSIDP) requires that doctoral students make progress towards their degree by identifying an advisor and conducting research. By the end of the Spring Quarter of the first-year of study, students are required to find a primary Faculty Mentor to supervise their dissertation research. As of Fall Quarter 2024, the start of your second-year of study, you have not yet identified a primary Faculty Mentor.
- The NSIDP approved and supported a 4th rotation to assist in helping you find a Faculty Mentor. This 4th rotation ended in September 2024 and did not result in a match for a primary Faculty Mentor.
- The NSIDP approved and supports a 5th rotation to take place during the Fall 2024 term. While you seek out 5th rotation possibilities, you were advised to enroll in NEURO 597 with NSIDP Chair, Dr. Felix Schweizer so your degree progress can be monitored and graded for the Fall 2024 term. Dr. Schweizer and Graduate Advisor, Jenny have met with you on multiple occasions to discuss potential research rotation mentors.
- For Fall 2024, you have also registered and enrolled in coursework to continue making academic progress towards your degree requirements. You must receive a letter grade of "B-"or better in these courses to satisfy your degree requirements.

The NSIDP supports your continuance during the Winter 2025 Quarter and has developed the following academic plan to help you make degree progress:

- By December 13, 2024 – Identify and obtain confirmation from a Faculty Mentor that will serve as a 5th rotation faculty mentor.
- Before January 6, enroll in NEURO 596 with the rotation faculty mentor – discuss rotation expectations and complete all expectations of NEURO 596 to obtain a Satisfactory grade at the end of the Winter term.
- By March 14, 2025 – Obtain confirmation from the 5th rotation faculty mentor that they will serve as your primary Faculty Mentor for your dissertation research.

- Enroll in NEURO M203 – During the Winter Quarter, complete the core course requirement of NEURO M203 with a letter grade of at least "B-".
- Additional course work requirements typically taken during the Winter Quarter of Year 2 may be deferred upon your request. Adjustments to your Winter study list can be done by Friday, March 14.
- Meet with Felix during Week 5 (February 2) to update him on the research rotation progress.

Failure to meet any of the benchmarks provided above may result in a departmental recommendation for your academic disqualification to the Division of Graduate Education.

If you have any questions, please consult Felix Schweizer – Program Chair. You can also contact the Student Affairs Officer, Jenny Lee, for support with academic or other issues. If you require accommodations to the above plan and are registered with the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) please request your Letter of Accommodation in the Student Portal. If you are seeking registration with the CAE, please submit your request for accommodations via the CAE website: https://cae.ucla.edu/. Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations should submit their request for accommodations as soon as possible, as it may take up to two weeks to review the request.

In addition, the university offers many valuable campus resources such as the Graduate Writing Center, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), and access to the Academic Case Managers at the Division of Graduate Education. To request a consultation with an Academic Case Manager, please submit an intake form at: https://sa.ucla.edu/Forms/p/ACM. We also recommend that, for greater support and accountability, you regularly seek feedback from peers and Graduate Writing Center tutors.

We appreciate your focused attention on meeting these requirements and wish you the best in the coming quarter.

Sincerely,

Felix Schweizer
Chair, Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program

Re: 596 Syllabus and Expectations
2 messages

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: "Bearden, Carrie" <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>

Tue, Feb 25, 2025 at 2:00 PM

Hi Carrie,

I *sincerely* appreciate this, and agree emphatically. The course description you generously provided, will significantly facilitate my consistent communication and productivity moving forward. I will share any questions or concerns if they arise.

Progress Update: Week 7 [Tue 02/11/25 – Wed 02/19/25]
Research Projects

1. Dylan and I have been discussing progress and strategies for the pre-imputation pipeline:
    1. Upon closer examination, we realized this stage, although preferred, is ultimately optional to rename the snps to standard rsIDs, provided each variant's existing name uniquely defines and consistently maps it to GRCh37/hg19 coordinates. Thus, a significantly simpler alternative approach, which I already implemented, is the simple substitution of all variant names with their corresponding composite key (i.e., chr:position:ref:alt). These keys are unique and can easily be converted to rsIDs, which I have also already completed.
    2. Ultimately, I realistically expect to complete this project by the end of this week—likely sooner.
        1. I will confirm any remaining uncertainties with Dylan when we meet tomorrow. He is already updated about my completion of the rsID renaming.

Funding

1. I emailed Alex again, who confirmed that both the Medical Imaging Informatics and Biomedical Data Science Program appointment cycles begin in **July 2025.**
2. My TAship application tracker linked here, and I plan to apply until I am hired for a position.
3. I attended an info session for a potential additional funding opportunity, UC-LEND this Tue, however I am still unsure if I am eligible (due 4/27/25). Happy to discuss more during our meeting.
4. I contacted Leanna to confirm application deadlines and confirm her LoR availability today.
5. I will submit a draft NSRA grant proposal [1pg Specific Aims + 6pg Research Strategy] for 211A, adapted from my T32 for review next Tue, 3/2/25.

Personal

1. Trello Boards for time management organization and planning
    1. enigma-dti-genomic-data-processing
    2. napls-prs
2. I am visiting my BWC therapist again each week to work toward regaining control of my sleep and fixation/task-switching challenges, which have made it more difficult to improve my time-management, organization, planning, and communication.
3. I am self-studying the cognitive behavioral skills workbook below to develop practical strategies to improve my organization, time management and planning.

[Quoted text hidden]

---

3 attachments

📄 **Laura E. Knouse_Will Canu_Kate Flory_Cynthia M. Hartung__ Will C - Thriving in College with ADHD (2024, Routledge) - libgen.li.pdf**
5203K

📄 **UC-LEND Recommendation Form Update.pdf**
474K

📄 **LEND Training Program Recruitment Flyer 2025.pdf**
200K

Bearden, Carrie <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 12:16 AM

Hi Cooper,

I've never done one of these before for a rotation student but Jenny and Felix suggested documenting the expectations in writing, and I think it's a good idea.

So attached is the 'course description', ie documentation of specific activities and expectations for the rotation.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

It would also be very helpful if , in between the bi-weekly meetings, you can give me a weekly written update on progress.

Thanks,

Carrie

--

Carrie E. Bearden, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences & Psychology

Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

Director, Center for the Assessment and Prevention of Prodromal States (CAPPS)

From: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Date: Friday, January 31, 2025 at 11:43 AM
To: "Bearden, Carrie" <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Training Grant Letter of Recommendation and Feedback

Hi Carrie,

My estimate last night was overly ambitious. I have been working in a separate document continuously and am finalizing.
GATP_T32_2025_Statement_of_Research_Interest_Final

It should not deviate significantly from the following outline:

1. **Opening Quote & Motivation**

   1. Opens with a quote from former NIMH Director, Thomas Insel highlighting the challenging disconnect between landmark scientific findings and real-world improvements in mental health.
   2. Emphasizes community experiences with transient distress triggered by environmental factors, highlighting urgency for more precise interventions.

2. **Prior Preparation & Rotations**

   1. **Hernandez** Lab: Performed GCTA-based GWAS on subcortical volumes in ABCD, refining HPC workflows.
   2. **Ophoff** Lab: Investigated epigenetic aging in bipolar cohorts via R/Python, deepening statistical-modeling skills.
   3. **Wells** Lab: Applied Cellpose for scRNA-seq imaging analysis, focusing on neuronal composition.

      1. Brief **UCSF** genomic and computational research training biology background with Dr. Yin **Shen** (a UCLA alum).

3. **Proposed Research**

   1. **Partitioned Polygenic Risk & gSEM**: Isolate shared vs. disorder-specific risk across SCZ/bipolar/depression using GWAS-by-Subtraction.
   2. **Longitudinal Normative Modeling:** Map adolescent brain data from ABCD/NAPLS onto typical growth curves, correlating "z-deviations" with specific polygenic and other datatype sub-signals.
   3. **Gene-by-Environment:** Incorporate adversity metrics (trauma/stress) from ABCD/NAPLS/ProNET to determine tipping points for risk vs. resilience.

4. **Alignment with GATP**

   1. **Coursework** (Statistics 100B, Human Genetics 236A) to strengthen advanced modeling.
   2. **Faculty Expertise** in Biostatistics & Human Genetics to support HPC expansions, multi-ancestry PRS.
   3. **Interdisciplinary Mentorship** fosters methodological rigor, open science and reproducibility.
   4. **Career Development** through Human Genetics 282 for writing, presentations, and future leadership.

5. **Long-Term Goals**

   1. Leading a computational psychiatric genomics lab, bridging large-scale genetic risk analyses with evaluation of individualized early interventions.

6. **Conclusion emphasizing alignment**

   1. Highlight synergy with GATP's rigorous curriculum and how it will fuel my overarching goal: earlier and more personalized interventions for youth at high genetic risk.

On Fri, Jan 31, 2025 at 11:00 AM Bearden, Carrie <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu> wrote:

> Hi Cooper
>
> Just checking in again since I have not heard from you. I will soon run out of time to get this letter finished.
>
> just in case it isn't 100 % clear- submitting this application on time is an expectation/requirement of this rotation.
>
> That being said I am concerned I haven't heard from you given this urgency so I hope you're ok
>
>
> Best,
>
> Carrie
>
>
> --
>
> Carrie E. Bearden, Ph.D.
>
> Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences & Psychology
>
> Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

Director, Center for the Assessment and Prevention of Prodromal States (CAPPS)

https://capps.semel.ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles

cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu

she/her

From: "Bearden, Carrie" <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 11:55 PM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Training Grant Letter of Recommendation and Feedback

Ok , can you please send me what you submit? I am still working on the letter and would like to make sure what I say is consistent with what you put in the application.

Best,

Carrie

From: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Date: Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 5:50 PM
To: "Bearden, Carrie" <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: Training Grant Letter of Recommendation and Feedback

Thank you for your actionable and specific advice, Dr. Bearden

The final draft, addressing those suggestions and the other areas of improvement will be submitted by 11:59 PM tonight. I'm sorry for allowing this submission to become unnecessarily rushed, and would appreciate meeting to discuss expectations again next week.

📄 **Course Description-Bearden lab rotation.docx**
18K

Course Description/Units

Expectations for Neuroscience 596 (Rotation in Bearden Lab; 5 UNITS)- Directed Individual Study or Research.

1 unit=3 hours work per week (e.g, 5 units=15 hours/wk). (Note: this ratio reflects requirements from UCLA's accrediting agency and federal policy.)

Expectations/Goals:

Students must complete the following requirements to receive full credit/pass this course.

Research:
-Bi-weekly meetings with faculty advisor. Come prepared to meetings with detailed progress on project to report & discuss ; questions
-Timely completion of projects, specifically: 1) accurate completion of pre-imputation pipeline for NAPLS3 data; complete data sent to ENIGMA PI's
2) accurate completion of imputation pipeline for ENIGMA DTI GWAS (following completion of #1 above)
3) generation and interpretation of multiple polygenic risk scores in NAPLS dataset
-Clear documentation of all methods and results (e.g. post code on GitHub)
-Good communication (preferably 1 month but at minimum 2 weeks in advance) regarding application deadlines/requests for feedback on fellowship materials
-Timely completion of relevant fellowship applications

Scholarly development:
● Obtain depth/breadth of knowledge in SNP genotyping methods & latest research in psychiatric genetics, particularly genomic structural equation modeling ; to be acquired through reading the relevant literature (posted on lab Slack), websites, and regular meetings with graduate students and PI

Professional development:
● Participate in weekly lab meetings to discuss literature, ongoing research, & conference presentations.

Professional communication:
● Present and clearly explain the work done on your project, described above; incorporate feedback (lab meeting scheduled for March 12)

● **Grading**

A passing grade will be assigned given satisfactory completion of all activities described above.

[ENIGMA-DTI Pre Imputation QC Submission] - NAPLS3_EUR
8 messages

Bearden, Carrie <cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: ENIGMA DTI <enigma.dtigenetics@gmail.com>, Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: DYLAN HUGHES <hughesdy@g.ucla.edu>

Wed, May 7, 2025 at 12:06 AM

Ok thanks for letting us know!

Best,

Carrie

--

Carrie E. Bearden, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences & Psychology

Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

Director, Center for the Assessment and Prevention of Prodromal States (CAPPS)

https://capps.semel.ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles

cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu

she/her

From: ENIGMA DTI <enigma.dtigenetics@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 9:46 AM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: "Bearden, Carrie" <cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu>, DYLAN HUGHES <hughesdy@g.ucla.edu>
Subject: Re: [ENIGMA-DTI Pre Imputation QC Submission] - NAPLS3_EUR

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

ENIGMA DTI <enigma.dtigenetics@gmail.com>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: "Bearden, Carrie" <cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu>, DYLAN HUGHES <hughesdy@g.ucla.edu>

Tue, May 6, 2025 at 9:46 AM

Dear Cooper, Carrie, Dylan,

Thank you very much for sending the files, and apologies for the delayed reply as we are dealing with some staffing changes in the core team.
The files have been received in good order and we will review them and get back to you as soon as possible.

Also, thank you very much for the details you provided on the protocol.

Best wishes,

Nina Roth Mota, Gabriëlla Blokland

[Quoted text hidden]

Bearden, Carrie <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 12:30 PM

Ok !

[Quoted text hidden]

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
To: "Bearden, Carrie" <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 11:33 AM

Thanks Carrie, of course!

My grant writing class is at 4, but we can cover the updates in 30-45min. 3pm works better for me too, and will help Dylan and I schedule a check in beforehand, and more time to organize my written progress update and agenda for our meeting.

I have not received a response from ENIGMA yet, but will update you and Dylan immediately if they reply without copying someone.

Thanks.

[Quoted text hidden]

Bearden, Carrie <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 11:14 AM

Oh, apolgoies- I have another meeting at 1. Would 3 pm work?

Thx

Carrie

[Quoted text hidden]
[Quoted text hidden]

Bearden, Carrie <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>

Tue, Mar 11, 2025 at 11:13 AM

Hi Cooper ,

Did you get any response yet?

I realize I have an advisory board meeting at 2 so will need to move our meeting- could you do either 1 pm or 3 pm?

Best,

Carrie

--

Carrie E. Bearden, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences & Psychology

Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

Director, Center for the Assessment and Prevention of Prodromal States (CAPPS)

https://capps.semel.ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles

cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu

she/her

From: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Date: Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 6:53 PM
To: "enigma.dtigenetics@gmail.com" <enigma.dtigenetics@gmail.com>
Cc: "Bearden, Carrie" <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>, DYLAN HUGHES <hughesdy@g.ucla.edu>
Subject: [ENIGMA-DTI Pre Imputation QC Submission] - NAPLS3_EUR

Dear ENIGMA-DTI Genetics Support Team,

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Bearden, Carrie <CBearden@mednet.ucla.edu>
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: DYLAN HUGHES <hughesdy@g.ucla.edu>

Sun, Mar 9, 2025 at 11:32 PM

Hi Cooper,

Thanks for sending to them and the clear documentation (and Dylan, thanks so much for your help in this process!)

Best,

Carrie

--

Carrie E. Bearden, Ph.D.

Professor, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences & Psychology

Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior

Director, Center for the Assessment and Prevention of Prodromal States (CAPPS)

https://capps.semel.ucla.edu

University of California, Los Angeles

cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu

she/her

[Quoted text hidden]

Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>   Sun, Mar 9, 2025 at 6:51 PM
To: enigma.dtigenetics@gmail.com
Cc: "Bearden, Carrie" <cbearden@mednet.ucla.edu>, DYLAN HUGHES <hughesdy@g.ucla.edu>

Dear ENIGMA-DTI Genetics Support Team,

Our **NAPLS3_EUR** submission following the completion of the **ENIGMA-DTI Pre Imputation QC Protocol** is attached for review.The **ENIGMA-DTI-genetics-info-preQC** and **ENIGMA-DTI-genetics-info-postQC** forms have also been submitted.

We report the following potential deviations from the protocol, and remain available to perform any reanalysis upon request.

1. **Study Design and Phenotype Coding:** NAPLS3 is a population-based, unrelated cohort with case-control elements. Thus, PLINK phenotype coding was applied to our .fam files during QC, in order to distinguish clinical high risk for psychosis (CHR) samples ("2") from healthy controls ("1").
2. **MDS Protocol and EUR Filtering:** MDS analysis was performed per protocol specifications for predominantly EUR ancestry cohorts. All samples with MDS coordinates outside the specified EUR MDS thresholds were excluded. Our sample size decreased commensurately from 528 to 250 (absent the 279 non-EUR samples). Prior to selecting this approach, the following alternatives were considered. For more information about the approximate ancestral composition of our cohort before MDS outlier exclusion, please refer to the additional attachment: *NAPLS3_ENIGMA-DTI_Ancestry_Composition.md*
   1. **Primary EUR-isolation** via a pre-specified list, followed by **secondary outlier exclusion** via MDS, and finally **remerging** with the non-EUR samples for downstream QC. Concerns regarding residual population stratification and reference panel alignment disfavored this approach.
   2. **Per-ancestry thresholding** using manual centroid cutoffs and the pre-specified ancestry assignment lists or manual/programmatic ancestry assignment of samples using HapMap3 reference data. These ancestry-specific subsets would remain separate for subsequent QC and submitted separately. Concerns regarding sample sizes disfavored this approach.
3. **Identity-by-descent duplicate detection** flagged zero non-monozygotic twin duplicates. Thus, QC1 files were linked directly to QC2 [e.g., *ln -sf "${ANC_DIR}/${ANC_DATA}_QC1.${ext}" "${ANC_DIR}/${ANC_DATA}_QC2.${ext}"*] without generating a *_QC2 log, yielding 26 total submission files instead of 27.

We appreciate your review and look forward to any feedback you may have before we proceed to imputation. Please let us know if a different ancestry processing method is preferred, or if we can clarify any additional details.

Sincerely,

Cooper Beaman
Doctoral Student, Neuroscience Interdepartmental Program
University of California, Los Angeles

---

2 attachments

- **NAPLS3_EUR_CB_20250309_ENIGMA-DTI_FilesToSend.zip**
  201K

- **NAPLS3_ENIGMA-DTI_Ancestry_Composition.md**
  6K

Cooper - Academic Disqualification Recommendation

1 message

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>   Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 4:04 PM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: "Schweizer, Felix (BOL)" <felixs@ucla.edu>

Hello Cooper,

A letter is attached for your information.

Respectfully,

Jenny

Jenny Lee (She/Her)

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (G-NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

(310) 825-8153 p

2 attachments

📄 **Pages from GD Standards and Procedures for Grad Study_Jan 2025.pdf**
163K

📄 **Cooper Beaman_Academic Disqualification Letter.pdf**
141K

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

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INTERDEPARTMENTAL Ph.D. PROGRAM FOR NEUROSCIENCE

The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
1506A Gonda Center
695 Charles E. Young Drive South
Los Angeles CA 90095-1761
Phone: 310.794.5733
Fax: 310.206.5855
Email: felixs@ucla.edu

April 28, 2025

Dear Cooper Beaman,

The Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (NSIDP) is recommending you to the Division of Graduate Education for academic disqualification effective Spring 2025 due to insufficient degree progress. The NSIDP requires that doctoral students make progress towards their degree by identifying an advisor and conducting research. By the end of the Spring Quarter of the first year of study, students are required to find a primary Faculty Mentor to supervise their dissertation research. After five research rotations, the fifth rotation occurring and concluding on March 14, 2025 (the end of the Winter Quarter of your second year of study), a primary Faculty Mentor has not been identified.

The Program Chair met with you on various dates, specifically on June 7, 2024, August 28, 2024, November 13, 2024, November 19, 2024, February 5, 2025, February 18, 2025 and March 31, 2025. You have also met with the Student Affairs Officer, Division of Gradate Education Case Manager and the Center for Accessible Education Case Manager on various occasions regarding your academic progress and support resources. The program supported you with your continuance in the program to pursue a fourth rotation which occurred during the Summer 2024 following your first-year of study, when a faculty mentor was not identified at the end of the fourth rotation, the program further supported your continuance with a fifth rotation to take place during Winter 2025 and as indicated on the letter dated November 19, 2024, if a faculty mentor was not identified by March 14, 2025 recommendation for academic disqualification would occur.

The Interdepartmental Degree Committee carefully considered your degree progress and the absence of a primary faculty mentor. The committee has voted to recommend to the Division of Graduate Education the academic disqualification of your status as a doctoral student in our department effective Spring 2025. This decision is based on insufficient degree progress based on failure to identify a faculty mentor.

On behalf of the department, I wish to convey our regrets about your delayed progression through the PhD program. Our response up until this letter has been flexible and compassionate in supporting your requests for additional research rotations.

We will be forwarding this letter along with supplemental materials to the Division of Graduate Education. You may appeal this recommendation for academic disqualification in writing to the interdepartmental degree committee and may personally present additional or mitigating information to the committee, in person or in writing. If you wish to pursue an appeal with the interdepartmental degree committee, you can submit an appeal within 10 days of receiving this notification. If you wish to appeal in person, please notify us in advance – no later than 10 days from this notice to allow for sufficient time for scheduling.

Regards,

Felix E. Schweizer, PhD
Program Chair - Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Neuroscience
Professor of Neurobiology

cc: Brian Kite and Renate Lux, Graduate Division Associate Deans

Attachment: "Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA" excerpt on Academic Disqualification, Pages 39 - 42

Appeal of Recommendation for Academic Disqualification

Request for Abeyance, Support for Major/Classification Change, and Consideration of Significant Mitigating Circumstances

Dear Interdepartmental Degree Committee Members,

I am writing to formally appeal the recommendation for academic disqualification from the Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (NSIDP), received April 28, 2025. The stated basis for this recommendation is "failure to identify a faculty mentor" after five research rotations.

While I acknowledge this outcome, I assert that a comprehensive review of my circumstances reveals significant mitigating factors that critically impacted my ability to identify a primary Faculty Mentor. These include systemic and procedural challenges, the substantial functional limitations associated with my documented ADHD, particularly during this uniquely extended and demanding process, and my demonstrated contribution to research activities within the GPB, collectively warranting a sincere consideration of the following proposed solutions.

My primary objective is to respectfully request that the Committee:

1. **Hold the recommendation for academic disqualification in abeyance.**
2. **Grant an extension, until the end of the Fall 2025 quarter (subject to discussion i), to provide sufficient time for the submission of my Major/Classification Change petition** to an alternative M.S. or Ph.D. program at UCLA.
3. **Offer the NSIDP's cooperation** in this transfer process.

This pathway, which I am actively pursuing, represents the most viable means for me to successfully complete my graduate training at UCLA, in a program that strongly leverages my background in functional genomics while providing an environment to apply and further develop my medical informatics skill set.

1. Misalignment of Research Focus & Pursuit of Transfer:

My core research interests lie at the intersection of functional genomics, gene regulation, and computational neuropsychiatric genetics. Despite my diligent efforts across five rotations and extensive faculty outreach during the intervening months, I found it exceptionally challenging to identify an NSIDP affiliated lab with a primary research program matching this emphasis *and* with the necessary concurrent capacity and funding to support an additional Ph.D. student. Several PIs repeatedly cited funding, space, or mentorship bandwidth limitations, as critical reasons for not extending an offer at various stages during each rotation.

This appeal is therefore submitted with the established intent to transfer. Professor Schweizer acknowledged this path on May 1, 2025, and Academic Case Manager Jaine Park, on May 9, 2025, indicated DGE's openness to discuss a transfer if a willing department is identified. I am actively pursuing leads with five suitable UCLA programs and seeking guidance from my former UCSF PI, Dr. Yin Shen. Given NSIDP is not currently providing financial support for my tuition, fees, or stipend, facilitating a transfer appears to be the most logical and resource-efficient path for all parties.

2. Impact of Documented Disability (ADHD) and Insufficient Accommodation:

I am registered with CAE for ADHD, with documented functional limitations in executive functioning, sustained focus, and information processing, especially under stress. These limitations profoundly impacted my experience:

A. **Navigating Rotations:** The cognitive demand of five consecutive rotations—learning new research, adapting to different lab cultures, managing coursework, and the escalating pressure to secure a mentor—was immense. My ADHD made it "substantially more difficult to prepare a comprehensive response to an unexpected disqualification notice on an abbreviated timeline" and to concurrently coordinate a program change. As I noted previously, "the process of rotating in labs and networking with faculty is highly demanding cognitively … my ADHD was a significant factor in why I struggled to secure a match within the same timeframe that other students might." I experienced escalating sleep deprivation and stress, which demonstrably slowed my processing and performance as the rotations progressed.

B. **Lack of Timely Awareness of Accommodation for Programmatic Processes:** Crucially, I "did not know I could seek accommodations/adjustments to policy [beyond coursework/exams] until just after 5th rotation", a point documented with Jaine Park. This lack of awareness prevented me from seeking timely accommodations for the rotation process itself.

C. **Inadequate Appeal Timeline:** The 10-business-day window for this appeal *and* for making substantive progress on a Major/Classification Change is insufficient given my disability. My request to CAE for an extension of the *NSIDP internal deadline* was based on this. CAE's response and my clarification are attached.

D. **Untapped Support Mechanisms:** I was awarded a Will Rogers Scholarship to fund executive functions coaching specifically to address these ADHD-related challenges. However, the timing of the disqualification process has not allowed an opportunity to implement and benefit from this coaching *during* a rotation period where it could have made a difference.

UCLA has a legal and ethical obligation to provide reasonable accommodations. The cumulative effect of navigating five rotations and now a disqualification process, without timely and appropriate accommodations for the programmatic aspects impacted by my ADHD, constitutes a significant mitigating circumstance.

3. Procedural and Systemic Considerations within NSIDP:

Several factors related to NSIDP's processes and support warrant consideration:

A. **Feedback and Guidance:** I found it "very difficult to adjust/grow from each rotation without receiving specific input or advice despite seeking this multiple times," often encountering vague responses. Consequential information regarding PIs' decisions was frequently relayed second-hand by Professor Schweizer or SAO Jenny Lee, rather than through direct, detailed feedback from the PIs themselves. This lack of direct, actionable feedback hampered my ability to make targeted improvements.

B. **Clarity of PI Availability and Funding:** There were instances of confusion or lack of transparency regarding PI funding/capacity (e.g., Dr. Ophoff's confusion on GSR costs/timing; concerns about whether some PIs could realistically take on a student regardless of performance due to contractual GSR support requirements or federal funding cuts). This uncertainty created an unstable environment for securing a lab.

C. **Communication Channels:** Most critical discussions occurred in private meetings, with only one group meeting involving Professor Schweizer and SAO Jenny Lee. A more collaborative, multi-party approach earlier on might have identified misalignments or solutions sooner.
D. **Nature of Academic Plan:** While the November 19, 2024 letter was signed by Professor Schweizer, the intensification of perceived expectations and stigma after each rotation created a challenging environment to succeed in meeting these expectations.

4. My Efforts and Contributions:

Throughout this process, I have remained committed to my graduate studies. Throughout my rotations, I consistently "worked extremely hard, was learning new skills during each rotation, and produced genuine usable project/analysis/data even if less than target deliverables." My academic transcript reflects satisfactory performance in coursework. This is not a record of a student unwilling or incapable of graduate-level work, but rather one struggling with a specific programmatic requirement within a system that may not have adequately supported their unique needs.

5. Requested Relief:

Given the significant mitigating circumstances related to my disability, the procedural context of my five rotations, and the viable, constructive path of a Major/Classification Change that I am actively pursuing with prior endorsement, I respectfully request that the Interdepartmental Degree Committee:

A. **Rescind or Hold in Abeyance** the recommendation for academic disqualification.
B. **Grant an Extension of Time**, until the end of the Fall 2025 quarter, to allow me to finalize and submit a Graduate Petition for Major/Classification Change. This time frame allows for meaningful engagement with potential new departments and PIs, particularly as faculty return for the new academic year.
C. **Formally Support my Transfer Efforts:** Provide a letter or statement from NSIDP to the Graduate Division and potential receiving departments, acknowledging my good standing in coursework and supporting my transition to a more suitable program. This would greatly aid in securing acceptance.
D. **Grant an in-person hearing** to discuss this appeal.

I am confident that in a program aligned with my functional genomics and computational strengths, and with appropriate communication and support for my ADHD, I can and will thrive at UCLA. Facilitating this transfer is a solution that upholds the University's commitment to student success and its obligations under disability law.

Thank you for your thorough consideration of my appeal.

Sincerely,

Cooper Beaman
UCLA ID: 105692562
Ph.D. Student, NSIDP

Appeal of Academic Disqualification Recommendation - Cooper Beaman [UID: 105692562]

Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>   Fri, May 23, 2025 at 11:42 AM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>, "Lee, Jenny [BRI]" <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
Cc: "Park, Jaine" <jpark@grad.ucla.edu>, "Bailey, Tom" <tbailey@grad.ucla.edu>

Dear Cooper,

thank you for your email and the resending of your written appeal. It was indeed distributed to all committee members as soon as we received it.

Concerning your questions:

I do accept your request to bring two supporters to the meeting. I do ask that they identify themselves and what role they serve during the meeting. I don't think that the link was personalized, so you can share it. But there is a waiting room and Jenny needs to know who to let it.   We acknowledge that they will be attending in the role of supporting you and will not be speaking on behalf of you.

Do your second question, yes, this is the committee that will handle the appeal. The two student representatives on this committee are not published on the registrar's website. Roll will be taken in order to determine that we have a quorum and conduct a vote following the deliberations. Therefore, I cannot confirm at this time whether all will be in attendance.

There are logistical considerations to ensure that adequate participation of all committee members to review your appeal. In your request to appeal, you indicated that you would provide a written appeal and request an opportunity to present in-person. To facilitate your request in a timely fashion, the remote format allows you to present your appeal and ensure adequate participation. Within the broader context of the technology that is available, a remote format allows for you to personally present and participants to engage in this process.

with my best wishes

Felix

On 5/22/2025 4:59 PM, Cooper Beaman wrote:

> Dear Interdepartmental Degree Committee Members,
>
> While Jenny confirmed receipt of my written appeal, and I trust that it has been delivered to the committee, I am attaching the document here for consistency.
> Furthermore, before accepting the virtual appeal invite, could the committee please address the following points?
>
>   1. Will the committee honor my intent to attend the appeal accompanied by 2 silent supporters?
>   1. Can they join using the same link that is included in my invitation? If not, do additional calendar invitations need to be sent?
>   2. Who will attend the appeal meeting?
>   1. I found a list of faculty Neuroscience Faculty Committee on the UCLA General Catalog 2024-25, but I would like to ask if these faculty are the same Interdepartmental Degree Committee faculty who I will appeal to.
>   2. I would also like to ask if all members will be in attendance.
>   3. Why was the meeting scheduled virtually when two dates were initially provided, while the terms of the disqualification recommendation, and recent emails referred to this appeal as being in person?
>
> Once I have received this information, I and my silent supporters will accept the virtual meeting invitation.

Thank you for your understanding.

On Wed, May 21, 2025 at 9:25 AM Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu> wrote:

> Hello Cooper,
>
> I am acknowledging receipt of your written appeal.
>
> Take care,
>
> Jenny
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:00 AM
> **To:** Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
> **Subject:** Re: Appeal of Academic Disqualification Recommendation - Cooper Beaman [UID: 105692562]
>
> Dear Jenny,
>
> My Written appeal is attached. I will present additional or mitigating information to the committee during the in person meeting.
>
> Thank you
>
> On Tue, May 20, 2025 at 1:27 PM Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu> wrote:
>
>> Dear Jenny,
>>
>> I received the May 20 notification.
>>
>> On Tue, May 20, 2025 at 8:29 AM Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu> wrote:
>>
>>> Dear Cooper,
>>>
>>> Thank you for your patience while I coordinated schedules with the IDP Advisory Committee.
>>>
>>> Per your request to appeal both in-person and in writing the Academic Disqualification Recommendation effective Spring 2025 due to insufficient degree progress, a meeting of the IDP Advisory Committee has been scheduled for Friday, May 23 at 2:00pm via Zoom. A calendar reminder with Zoom information will be sent to you.

- Your written appeal must be received by 9:00am, May 21. Failure to do so will forfeit your appeal and the meeting will be canceled.
- You will be allotted 45-minutes to present additional or mitigating information to the committee.

If you need assistance with reserving a room with internet connection to accommodate the zoom meeting, please let me know by 9am tomorrow and I will secure an on-campus location for you.

A confirmation that you have received this notification is appreciated. An e-mail response will suffice.

Thank you,

Jenny

From: Lee, Jenny [BRI]
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 10:32 AM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>; Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
Cc: Park, Jaine <jpark@grad.ucla.edu>; Bailey, Tom <tbailey@grad.ucla.edu>
Subject: RE: Appeal of Academic Disqualification Recommendation - Cooper Beaman [UID: 105692562]

Dear Cooper,

Efforts are being made to schedule a meeting with the IDP Committee for you to present your appeal. The proposed dates are Friday, March 23 and Friday, March 30 between the hours of 9:00am to 5:00pm. Please block off these dates and times to accommodate flexibility with schedule this meeting.

- Your written appeal should be received by 9:00am, May 21.
- You will be allotted 45-minutes to present your appeal to the committee.

A confirmation of the date/time/location of the meeting will be provided by 5:00pm on Monday, May 19.

Thank you,

Jenny

From: Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 8:00 AM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>; Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>
Cc: Park, Jaine <jpark@grad.ucla.edu>; Bailey, Tom <tbailey@grad.ucla.edu>
Subject: RE: Appeal of Academic Disqualification Recommendation - Cooper Beaman [UID: 105692562]

Dear Cooper,

On behalf of the NSIDP, I acknowledge receipt of your request for an opportunity to appeal the recommendation of your academic disqualification due to insufficient degree progress, effective Spring 2025, to the Division of Graduate Education.

We are currently in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Interdepartmental Degree Committee to allow you to present your appeal in person, as you have requested. In the meantime, we are awaiting receipt of your written appeal. Once received, we will share it with the committee to ensure appropriate consideration of your request.

Please submit your written appeal to facilitate this process.

Thank you,

Jenny

Jenny Lee (She/Her)

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (G-NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

(310) 825-8153 p

From: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 6:01 PM
To: Felix Schweizer <felixs@ucla.edu>; Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>
Cc: Park, Jaine <jpark@grad.ucla.edu>; Bailey, Tom <tbailey@grad.ucla.edu>
Subject: Appeal of Academic Disqualification Recommendation - Cooper Beaman [UID: 105692562]

Dear Interdepartmental Degree Committee Members,

In accordance with the terms outlined in the NSIDP's recommendation for academic disqualification letter, received April 28, 2025, **I respectfully request the opportunity to appeal and "present additional or mitigating information to the committee, in person."**

My primary objective, as detailed in my forthcoming written appeal, is to secure a constructive resolution facilitating the successful completion of my graduate training at UCLA. through Major/Classification Change.

Thank you for your time and thorough consideration.

Sincerely,

Cooper Beaman
UCLA ID: 105692562
Ph.D. Student, NSIDP

Virtual "in person" Appeal Notes and Information

[Neuroscience Faculty Committee [2024-25 Catalog]](#)

1. Aaron P. **Blaisdell**, PhD *(Psychology)*
2. Dean V. **Buonomano**, PhD *(Neurobiology, Psychology)*
3. S. Thomas **Carmichael**, Jr., MD, PhD *(Neurology)*
4. Mirella **Dapretto**, PhD *(Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences)*
5. David L. **Glanzman**, PhD *(Integrative Biology and Physiology, Neurobiology)*
6. Ming **Guo**, MD, PhD *(Molecular and Medical Pharmacology, Neurology)*
7. Paul E. **Micevych**, PhD *(Neurobiology)*
8. Thomas J. **O'Dell**, PhD *(Physiology)*
9. Alvaro **Sagasti**, PhD *(Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology)*
10. Felix E. **Schweizer**, PhD *(Neurobiology)*
11. Stephanie A. **White**, PhD *(Integrative Biology and Physiology)*
12. Elle **Rathbun,** Student Representative (Thesis Lab: Dr. Thomas Carmichael; Entering Year: 2020)
13. Ari **Schaler,** Student Representative (Thesis Lab: Dr. Lindsay De Biase; Entering Year: 2019)

Attendees

Neuroscience Faculty Committee

1. Aaron P. **Blaisdell**, PhD (Psychology)
2. Dean V. **Buonomano**, PhD (Neurobiology, Psychology)
3. Mirella **Dapretto**, PhD (Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences)
4. David L. **Glanzman**, PhD (Integrative Biology and Physiology, Neurobiology)
5. Thomas J. **O'Dell**, PhD (Physiology)
6. Alvaro **Sagasti**, PhD (Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology)
7. Felix E. **Schweizer**, PhD (Neurobiology)
8. Stephanie A. **White**, PhD (Integrative Biology and Physiology)

Administrative

1. Jenny Lee
2. Gayane Hovhannisyan

Appellant

1. Cooper M. Beaman

Silent Supporters

1. Myrna Maroun
2. Bill Beaman

Notes

virtual_adq_notes_05232025.pdf

Page 1 [1.jpg]

- Time Meeting Started – 2:26 p.m. [cite: 1]
- Attendees:
  - Glanzman [cite: 1]
  - Buonomano [cite: 1]
  - Sagasti [cite: 1]
  - O'Dell [cite: 1]
  - White [cite: 1]
  - Rathbun [cite: 1]
  - Dapretto [cite: 1]
  - Blaisdell [cite: 1]
  - Hovhannisyan [cite: 1]
  - Felix [cite: 1]
  - Jenny [cite: 1]
- Felix interrupted to warn about time – 15 mins. [cite: 1]
- Spoke for 30 mins. about Path– (word "Path" is cut off) [cite: 1]

Page 2 [IMG_8004.jpg]

- 2:26 (The first word or phrase before "Jenny / Felix" is difficult to decipher with certainty, possibly "Hate" as visually suggested, or "Note:" or related to timing/attendance. Given the formal context, "Hate" is unusual but transcribed visually) Jenny / Felix / seems ok [cite: 2]
- Alvaro Sagasti [cite: 2]
- to NSIDP Advisory Committee (Appeal) [cite: 2]
- 3:25 [cite: 2]
- Was Cooper clear? [check mark] [cite: 2]
- Did Cooper talk at a good pace? [check mark] [cite: 2]
- Did he cover this material [check mark] [cite: 2]
- Compressed time limit. [cite: 2]
- Dossier - 2 pts not make progress [cite: 2]
  - A. Identity PI (Principal Investigator) [cite: 2]
  - B. Core Curriculum [cite: 2]
- Cooper talking [cite: 2]
- Background/Early interests: [cite: 2]
  - UC San Diego – molecular biology [cite: 2]
  - Crispr. [cite: 2]
- Friend w/ (with) mental health experience [cite: 2]
- Began 5 yr (year) journey applying to grad school [cite: 2]
- Graduated 2020 worked in lab [cite: 2]
- Interviewed for UCSF PhD [cite: 2]
- Worked w/ (with) Dr. Shen [cite: 2]
- Published work. [cite: 2]
- Understanding, privilege to do research [cite: 2]
- Financial basis – revolutionize base science [cite: 2]
- UCLA best in the system [cite: 2]
- Dr Baliu – quote about working/struggle [cite: 2]

- It never crossed his mind that he'd change labs. [cite: 2]
- Didn't occur till 3rd rotation that he didn't have level of commitment [cite: 2]

Page 3 [IMG_8005.jpg]

- Pls. Couldn't support add'l (additional) students [cite: 3]
- Didn't receive certainty in a lab [cite: 3]
- Misaligned on personal & cultural level [cite: 3]
- Welles Lab – challenging [cite: 3]
- Dr. Hernandez made decision to go in new direction (switch to rotation w/ (with) her) [cite: 3]
- Did not deter him from doing the work [cite: 3]
- Prioritize computational route [cite: 3]
- Able to secure a 7 week rotation w/ (with) Ophoff Lab (limited support mechanism) [cite: 3]
- Learned Lab Culture / Ophoff Lab grateful [cite: 3]
- Under Ophoff Lab – completed project [cite: 3]
- Ophoff Lab – Didn't make up mind until presentation [cite: 3]
- Wasn't satisfying to Cooper because too short [cite: 3]
- Ophoff Lab shares it was too short. [cite: 3]
- Cooper – Felt upsetting he couldn't demonstrate [cite: 3]
- Did well on written quals (qualifying exams) [cite: 3]
- Scrambling after quals to get faculty mentor [cite: 3]
- Cooper managed to secure a rotation w/ (with) Dr Bearden. [cite: 3]
- She stated "not sure if she could provide lab" [cite: 3]
- Fellowships, training grants T32 (didn't realize top priority to Bearden) [cite: 3]
- Neuroanatomy at same time to get lab [cite: 3]
- Graduate Student Writing Center [cite: 3]
- During the rotation – Academic Plan [cite: 3]
- Doesn't believe was able to show what he was capable of. [cite: 3]

Page 4 [IMG_8006.jpg]

- Assumed mentee relationship was more dynamic & flexible [cite: 4]
- If he had known that funding was an issue at a particular lab he wouldn't pursue. [cite: 4]
- He knows [cite: 4]
- Parties could have come to understanding sooner, so he could have picked labs [cite: 4]
- Financial part challenging to reckon with [cite: 4]
- More communication could have been achieved [cite: 4]
- Challenging [cite: 4]
- ***Does not feel the disqualification outcome was aligned with or representative of his potential. [cite: 4]***
- Felix / 5 minutes / Mirella Dapretto (This likely indicates a point where Felix spoke, possibly for 5 minutes, or a 5-minute warning was given, with Mirella Dapretto also being relevant at this juncture) [cite: 4]
- What would you like to see going forward [cite: 4]
  - New program / Term Masters or Continuation of PhD [cite: 4]
  - All he asks is agreement to pursue that above [cite: 4]
- Felix: Absolutely free to approach other programs. Nothing that stops you. [cite: 4]
- No doubts about passion & commitment [cite: 4]
- Trying to work w/ (with) you [cite: 4]
- Connection at UCSF / Collaborate program for new [cite: 4]
- Cooper didn't feel comfortable before [cite: 4]
- Felix said to pursue [cite: 4]

Page 5 [IMG_8007.jpg]

- Secret vote after this call [cite: 5]
- And then provide a decision w/in (within) 5 days. [cite: 5]
- Next few days free to reach (The sentence seems incomplete, possibly meaning "free to reach out" or "free to be reached") [cite: 5]

Virtual "In-Person" Appeal of Recommendation for Academic Disqualification

I. Introduction & Objective (Approx. 5 minutes)

Good morning/afternoon, Interdepartmental Degree Committee Members, esteemed faculty, and student representatives. Thank you sincerely for granting me this opportunity to speak with you today.

My name is Cooper Beaman. I am here today to respectfully appeal the Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program's recommendation for academic disqualification, as detailed in the letter dated April 28, 2025 (which I refer to as **Exhibit A**).

However, my primary purpose is not to contest the past. More importantly, I am here to present a well-considered, constructive, and viable path forward. My primary objective, as stated in my written appeal, is to respectfully request that this Committee: First, hold the recommendation for academic disqualification in abeyance. Second, grant an extension of time, ideally until the end of the Fall 2025 quarter, to allow for the thorough preparation and submission of my Major/Classification Change petition to an alternative M.S. or Ph.D. program here at UCLA. And third, to offer the NSIDP's cooperation and support in this transfer process.

I firmly believe that a collaborative solution is in everyone's best interest, especially mine, and I am fully committed to making this transition a success, allowing me to continue and complete my graduate training at UCLA.

Overview of Presentation - Brief bullet points of the sections covered

II. Acknowledgment & Brief Context (Approx. 5 minutes)

I acknowledge the NSIDP's letter (Exhibit A) and understand the stated basis for the recommendation: 'failure to identify a faculty mentor' by the designated deadline, following the completion of five research rotations.

The journey through these rotations has undoubtedly been challenging, and I want to state clearly that I take responsibility for my part in the outcomes. However, to make an informed decision about my future, I believe it's essential to consider the full context. This includes significant mitigating circumstances that I will elaborate on shortly, which are also detailed in my written appeal. These factors critically impacted my ability to secure a lab placement within the NSIDP's structure and timeline.

My aim in providing this context is not to assign blame or dwell on past difficulties, but rather to build a comprehensive understanding that supports the constructive solution I am proposing: a transfer to a program where my skills and research interests can better align and flourish.

III. Value Contributed & Skills Developed (Approx. 10-12 minutes)

Value & Contributions - Highlight key skills/projects/publications

Despite the challenges in finding a permanent lab home within NSIDP, I want to lead with the value I believe I have contributed to the UCLA research community and the skills I've developed, which underscore my potential for future success in a more suitable academic environment.

My commitment to research began well before matriculating into the NSIDP. As detailed in my 'UCLA NSIDP Rotation Background' document (**Exhibit D**), during my two years as a full-time Research Associate and Lab Manager in Dr. Yin Shen's lab at UCSF, I led two functional genomics projects and substantially contributed to a third. This work involved advanced CRISPR-based screening methodologies—GeCKO, CRISPRi, Prime Editing—within human iPSC and differentiated neuron systems. I was responsible for the design and execution of genome-scale screens, including troubleshooting and optimizing viral packaging, and performing downstream computational analysis using pipelines like MAGeCK-VISPR. It was a privilege to contribute to impactful work, including a recent Nature paper on human accelerated regions (Cui et al., 2025) and an upcoming preprint on regulatory elements (Yang et al., 2023), experiences foundational to my training, as mentioned in my outreach to Dr. Shen (**Exhibit H** / 'Dr. Shen ADQ Outreach' document).

Skills Matrix - List key wet-lab and computational skills

Throughout my five rotations here at UCLA, I actively immersed myself in diverse research areas. I didn't just passively participate; I consistently aimed to produce tangible research outputs—genuine, usable projects, analyses, and data—even when facing compressed timelines or new methodologies. This involved both sophisticated wet-lab techniques and complex computational analyses.

Specifically, I have honed skills in:

- **Wet-Lab Functional Genomics:** Extensive experience with CRISPR editing (GeCKO, CRISPRi, Prime Editing), iPSC culture and differentiation, genomic assays, molecular cloning, and viral vector production.
- **Computational Biology & Bioinformatics:** Advanced proficiency in R and Python for data manipulation, statistical analysis, and visualization (using packages like dplyr, ggplot2, and data.table). I am experienced in High-Performance Computing on the Hoffman2 cluster, working with large cohort data including GWAS (using GCTA, PLINK) and DNA methylation analysis. I've also utilized tools such as MAGeCK-VISPR, Shiny for interactive data exploration, Ensembl BioMart, and others listed in my Rotation Background (Exhibit D).
- **Research & Academic Acumen:** I successfully passed the written qualifying exams, demonstrating a solid grasp of foundational neuroscience concepts. I have proactively sought extramural funding by applying for an NSF GRFP and a T32 training grant (reference to associated documents), and I have well-developed plans for future applications. My commitment to scientific communication is further evidenced by my ongoing employment at the UCLA Graduate Writing Center, where I've had the privilege of assisting fellow graduate students in refining their scholarly work.

This journey has equipped me with a unique and valuable cross-disciplinary skill set, blending rigorous wet-lab functional genomics with sophisticated computational analysis. I am passionate about applying these skills to fields like precision psychiatry and neurogenetics, embracing the principles of neurodiversity in research—a commitment deeply rooted in my personal experiences and values. (Ref: 'UCLA NSIDP Rotation Background' for precision psychiatry/neurodiversity)

IV. Mitigating Circumstances & Lessons Learned (Approx. 10-12 minutes)

Mitigating Factors - ADHD, Medical Issues, Systemic Factors

While I am proud of my contributions and development, several significant factors, many beyond my direct control, profoundly impacted my ability to secure a permanent lab placement within the NSIDP's demanding five-rotation timeline. These are not presented as excuses, but as crucial context for understanding the challenges I faced and for informing a fair and compassionate path forward.

Documented Disabilities & Medical Issues:

- As documented with the Center for Accessible Education (**Exhibit I**: CAE Approved Accommodation Eligibility Letter, August 08, 2024), I have a diagnosis of ADHD. This condition, as detailed in my written appeal and supported by extensive research, presents significant functional limitations in areas critical for navigating the rotation process: executive functioning (planning, organization, time management), sustained focus, and information processing, especially under conditions of high stress, ambiguity, and rapid transitions between complex research environments.
- To quote from my written appeal, 'The process of rotating in labs and networking with faculty is highly demanding cognitively: it involves learning new research in each rotation, performing well in varied environments, and simultaneously evaluating whether each lab is a good fit. Doing this repeatedly in succession can be overwhelming... My ADHD was a significant factor in why I struggled to secure a match in the same timeframe that other students might.'
- It is also critical to note that I was unaware of the possibility of seeking *programmatic accommodations* for the rotation process itself—beyond standard exam accommodations—until very late in this journey, specifically after my fifth rotation had concluded (documented in communications with Jaine Park and the CAE, **Exhibit R or P**). Had I known earlier, I would have proactively sought such support.
- Compounding these challenges, I experienced acute medical issues during crucial rotation periods. This included a severe bladder infection requiring hospitalization, and a debilitating bout of Bell's Palsy that persisted for months, significantly impacting my well-being and capacity during my third and fourth rotations with Drs. Leanna Hernandez and Roel Ophoff, respectively.

Systemic & Process-Related Factors:

- The feedback I received during some rotations was, at times, indirect, delayed, or lacked specific, actionable advice, despite my repeated efforts to seek constructive input. Phrases like 'kind and vague' or concerns that felt 'character-driven' rather than performance-based made it difficult to make targeted improvements. (Ref: notes: Very difficult to adjust/grow...)
- There were instances of unclear communication or apparent misunderstandings regarding PI funding availability or the financial implications of taking on a GSR. For example, the situation with Dr. Ophoff regarding GSR costs, or the broader impact of federal funding cuts on PIs' ability to commit to new students, introduced uncertainty that was independent of my capabilities or enthusiasm. (Ref: notes: Why did Ophoff act confused... and Federal Funding cuts impacted PI grants). I was concerned whether some PIs I rotated with, like Dr. Bearden, would have

been contractually permitted to hire me without additional GSR support from the program, a detail I was not privy to during the selection process.
- I was aware of the NSIDP FAQ stating that '100% of students in the NSIDP will find a lab to complete their dissertation in' (**Exhibit O**). While I understand this is an aspirational goal, the pressure of an increasingly extended and atypical rotation process, combined with what felt like escalating stigma and expectations with each subsequent rotation, significantly amplified the stress and exacerbated the inherent challenges posed by my ADHD.

Lessons Learned & Proactive Steps

- **Lessons Learned & Growth:**
  - This intensive period, while incredibly challenging, has also been one of profound learning—not just scientifically, but in terms of self-awareness. I have gained a much deeper understanding of my working style, the types of research environments in which I can truly thrive, and the specific supports and strategies I need to deploy to maximize my potential and navigate executive function challenges.
  - Demonstrating my commitment to addressing these challenges proactively, I applied for and was awarded a Will Rogers Scholarship to receive targeted executive functions coaching (**Exhibit P or Q**). Unfortunately, the timing of the award did not allow me to benefit from this coaching *during* a rotation lab, but it is a resource I am eager to utilize moving forward.

V. Proposed Solution: Program Transfer & Future Plans (Approx. 10 minutes)

Proposed Solution: Program Transfer - List target program areas, highlight alignment

My commitment to completing my graduate training and to making meaningful contributions to UCLA's distinguished research enterprise remains absolutely steadfast. After careful reflection, and in consultation with program leadership, I am convinced that the most constructive, realistic, and mutually beneficial path forward is a transfer to an alternative M.S. or Ph.D. program here at UCLA—one that is better aligned with my specific research interests, my robust computational and genomics skill set, and my preferred faculty mentorship style.

This is not a new or sudden idea. The possibility of a program change as a positive resolution was discussed with Professor Schweizer, for instance, during our meeting on [Insert date, e.g., March 31, 2025, if accurate from notes], and was acknowledged in his email to me dated May 1, 2025 (**Exhibit E**). My sole aim to successfully petition for a major/classification change has not wavered since this option was first presented.

Rationale for Transfer:

- My extensive background in functional genomics (CRISPR, iPSCs) and my advanced skills in computational biology (R, Python, HPC, GWAS, DNAm analysis), clearly demonstrated in my CV (**Exhibit B**) and Rotation Background (Exhibit D), align exceptionally well with several other strong graduate programs at UCLA. I am particularly interested in programs within Computational Medicine (such as the M.S. in Data Science in Biomedicine or the Ph.D. in Biomathematics), Human Genetics, Biostatistics, or Bioinformatics. My success in courses like BIOINFO 275A/B further underscores my aptitude for these

quantitative and data-driven fields. (Ref: written appeal snippet regarding BIOINFO courses and program interests).

- ○ A new program environment would provide a crucial 'fresh start,' allowing me to apply the significant lessons I've learned and to implement accommodations and strategies, such as the executive function coaching, from the very beginning of my engagement with a new lab and curriculum.

Proactive Steps Taken:

- ○ I have not been passively waiting. I have already begun the process of researching suitable alternative programs and have initiated outreach to faculty and program contacts. My communications with Jaine Park in the Graduate Division (**Exhibits F & G**) regarding the transfer process, and my drafted outreach to faculty like Dr. Yin Shen for guidance (Exhibit H / 'Dr. Shen ADQ Outreach' document), highlight my proactive and earnest approach to finding an appropriate academic home. I have also been systematically identifying potential mentors whose work aligns with my expertise (Ref: 'UCLA_Faculty_Outreach_Matrix Outreach_Matrix.csv').

Request for Support:

- ○ To facilitate this transition, I am formally requesting an extension of time, ideally until the end of the Fall 2025 quarter, to finalize my research into suitable programs, connect with potential advisors, and submit a comprehensive Major/Classification Change petition.
- ○ Critically, I request the NSIDP's and this committee's positive support and active cooperation in this transfer process. This support would ideally include a letter of good standing, or at minimum a neutral letter of transition, that accurately acknowledges my skills, my contributions, and my potential, focusing on the positive aspects of finding a better 'fit' rather than solely on the outcome of the NSIDP rotation process.
- ○ It is also pertinent to note that as I am not currently receiving tuition, fee, or stipend support from the NSIDP, facilitating a transfer to a program where I can secure funding and successfully continue my studies seems a far more sensible and resource-efficient outcome for all parties than pursuing academic disqualification. (Ref: notes)

VI. Conclusion & Call to Action (Approx. 5-6 minutes)

In conclusion, while my journey within the NSIDP did not culminate in securing a permanent lab placement, I believe I have clearly demonstrated significant research capabilities, substantial resilience in the face of multifaceted challenges—both personal and systemic—and a clear, proactive, and viable plan for a successful future in an aligned graduate program here at UCLA.

My unwavering goal is to contribute my unique skills, my passion for discovery, and my cross-disciplinary expertise to UCLA's vibrant research enterprise. A program transfer offers the most promising opportunity to achieve this. I am confident that with the appropriate programmatic alignment and the support I am now seeking, I will not only continue my graduate training but will contribute meaningfully through my unique perspective, ingenuity and rigorous contributions during the years to come.

Therefore, I respectfully request that this committee:

1. **Hold the recommendation for academic disqualification in abeyance.**
2. **Grant the requested extension of time, until the end of the Fall 2025 quarter, for the submission of my Major/Classification Change petition.**
3. **Provide the NSIDP's formal support and cooperation for this transfer, thereby facilitating a smooth and constructive transition.**

Thank you for your time, your careful consideration of my situation, and for the opportunity to present my case and my proposed path forward. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Appeal Response, Recommendation for Academic Disqualification

1 message

Lee, Jenny [BRI] <JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu>   Fri, May 30, 2025 at 4:50 PM
To: Cooper Beaman <cobeaman@g.ucla.edu>
Cc: "Schweizer, Felix (BOL)" <felixs@ucla.edu>, "Park, Jaine" <jpark@grad.ucla.edu>, "Bailey, Tom" <tbailey@grad.ucla.edu>

Hello, Cooper.

A response regarding your appeal is attached.

Take care,

Jenny

Jenny Lee (She/Her)

Graduate Program Coordinator

UCLA Neuroscience Interdepartmental Graduate Program (G-NSIDP)

JenniferL@mednet.ucla.edu

(310) 825-8153 p

2 attachments

📄 **Cooper Beaman_Appeal Decision Response.pdf**
226K

📄 **Pages from GD Standards and Procedures for Grad Study_Jan 2025.pdf**
163K

INTERDEPARTMENTAL Ph.D. PROGRAM FOR NEUROSCIENCE

The David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA
1506A Gonda Center
695 Charles E. Young Drive South
Los Angeles CA 90095-1761
Phone: 310.794.5733
Fax: 310.206.5855
Email: felixs@ucla.edu

May 30, 2025

Dear Cooper,

I am writing in response to your appeal of the recommendation of academic disqualification effective Spring 2025 due to insufficient degree progress.

Thank you for providing your written appeal and personally presenting additional information to our interdepartmental degree committee on May 23, 2025. Upon reviewing your appeal and the additional information you presented, the committee has determined to uphold the recommendation of academic disqualification effective Spring 2025 and will be forwarding the recommendation to the Division of Graduate Education.

The basis for the recommendation of academic disqualification due to insufficient degree progress was based on the benchmarks that were not met in the Academic Plan letter dated November 19, 2024:

- An Unsatisfactory grade was attained from your fifth rotation with Dr. Carrie Bearden.
- A primary faculty mentor was not identified by March 14, 2025.
- You did not complete the NEURO M203 course.

After careful consideration of your request and consultation with both the CAE and the Division of Graduate Education, the committee finds that the grounds for appeal are not sufficient to warrant rescinding or holding in abeyance the recommendation for academic disqualification.

With regards to the additional points of requested relief, an extension of time to recommend academic disqualification effective Fall 2025 will not be granted. A student must be making degree progress to maintain student status. This is defined by enrolling in coursework and conducting research with a faculty mentor. It has been established that you are not making degree progress, thus an extension to Fall 2025 would be a fundamental change to our program standards which is not allowed by university policy.

As indicated to you previously both by me, and the case manager in the Division of Graduate Education, during this process of academic disqualification and in the future, you are fully eligible to apply for other graduate programs at UCLA. A supplemental document to accompany your UCLA transcript that outlines the results of your Written Qualifying Exam will be provided to you.

The committee acknowledges that you have overcome many obstacles with your functional limitations associated with ADHD and have no doubts about your motivation to pursue a PhD. Through this process you have stated that you have developed your core research interest functional genomics, gene regulation, and computational neuropsychiatric genetics and I wish you all the best in pursuing these core research interests.

We will be forwarding the recommendation for academic disqualification effective Spring 2025 along with your written appeal to the program and response to the appeal to the Division of Graduate Education. Information regarding further appeal with the Division of Graduate Education is included in the attachment.

With my very best wishes for the future,

Felix Schweizer

Felix E. Schweizer, PhD
Program Chair – Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Neuroscience
Professor of Neurobiology

cc: Brian Kite and Renate Lux, Graduate Division Associate Deans

Attachment: "Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA" excerpt on Academic Disqualification, Pages 39 - 42

Academic Disqualification

1 message

Academic Services <academicservices@grad.ucla.edu>   Mon, Jun 16, 2025 at 8:47 AM
To: "cobeaman@ucla.edu" <cobeaman@ucla.edu>
Cc: "Schweizer, Felix" <felixs@ucla.edu>, "Lee, Jenny" <jenniferl@mednet.ucla.edu>

Dear Cooper,

Please find the letter and Appeals Form from the Division of Graduate Education attached.

Regards,

Academic & Postdoctoral Services

UCLA Division of Graduate Education

1255 Murphy Hall

Los Angeles, CA 90095

YOUR PARTNER IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

www.grad.ucla.edu

www.grad.ucla.edu/graduateeducationportal

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2 attachments

📄 **Beaman, Cooper (Neuroscience) - Academic Disqualification.pdf**
120K

📄 **Academic Disqualification Appeal Form - November 2023.pdf**
1596K

June 16, 2025

Dear Cooper Beaman,

As you are aware, the UCLA Neuroscience IDP recommends you for academic disqualification from the Neuroscience Ph.D. program as of Spring 2025 due to insufficient degree progress. Associate Dean Renate Lux has reviewed and concurred with this recommendation of academic disqualification. No reference to this action will appear on your transcript.

As per policy, academically disqualified graduate students are blocked from further registration and enrollment in the UCLA program they were disqualified from. They are also ineligible for campus-based services, including student housing. Academically disqualified graduate students receive a 100% tuition fee refund for their disqualification term minus the UCSHIP fee. If fees have been paid, UCSHIP coverage remains active for the remainder of the term in which the disqualification takes effect. To request a full refund of the UCSHIP fee, please contact the Ashe Center before the end of term. The UCSHIP office must verify that the student has not accessed the benefits or used any aspect of plan services before any refund can be considered.

If you wish to appeal the disqualification, please see *Standards & Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA*: https://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spfgs.pdf (p.38-40). Disagreements over evaluation of academic quality will not be considered as an appropriate basis for appeal. Within 30 calendar days after the individual receives written notice of the disqualification from the Division of Graduate Education, a student may appeal the academic disqualification decision if they believe and can provide evidence indicating that it was based on: (a) procedural error and/or (b) on non-academic criteria in violation of the University of California nondiscrimination policies. Further information about the nondiscrimination policies is available in the General Catalog on the UCLA Registrar's Office website.

We hope that despite the disappointment associated with not being allowed to continue in the graduate program, your studies at UCLA will contribute in a significant way to the attainment of your overall career objectives. Please accept our best wishes for your future endeavors.

If you have any further questions, please submit a query to the Graduate Education portal (https://grad.ucla.edu/graduateeducationportal) or email askgrad@grad.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

The Division of Graduate Education

cc Felix Schweizer, Chair, Neuroscience IDP

Jenny Lee, Graduate Program Coordinator, Neuroscience IDP

Academic Disqualification Appeal Form

*Please submit completed form to the DGE portal or email: askgrad@grad.ucla.edu

Students may appeal an academic disqualification decision if they believe and can provide evidence indicating that it was based on: (a) procedural error and/or (b) non-academic criteria in violation of the University of California nondiscrimination policies. Disagreements over evaluation of academic quality will not be considered as an appropriate basis for appeal. The decision to disqualify a graduate student due to failure to meet the minimum university GPA requirement (3.0) is not subject to appeal.

Within 30 calendar days after the individual receives notice of the disqualification from the Division of Graduate Education (DGE), students wishing to appeal an academic disqualification must return a completed version of this form to DGE. Students registered with the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) should consult with their CAE Disability Specialist as soon as possible if they require accommodations relating to the 30-day deadline.

Before completing this form, please review the Appeals Policy described in UCLA Division of Graduate Education's Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA (pages 38-40).

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name (Last, First):   Student UID:

Major: Degree Objective:

Email: Citizenship Visa/Status:

APPEAL INFORMATION

I am appealing my academic disqualification decision because I have reasons to believe this was based on :

Procedural error

Non-academic criteria in violation of the University of California nondiscrimination policies.

ACADEMIC DISQUALIFICATION APPEALS – PROCEDURAL ERROR

Please explain why you think your academic disqualification decision should be overturned in the context of procedural error. This statement should address the alleged procedural error and provide specific information to support this claim (e.g. the department did not follow its own published regulation for the number of times an exam could be taken). Please attach a page if you need more space.

ACADEMIC DISQUALIFICATION APPEALS – NON-ACADEMIC CRITERIA

Please explain why you think your academic disqualification decision should be overturned, specifying judgements based on non-academic criteria in violation of the University of California nondiscrimination policies. Please attach a page if you need more space. If you would prefer not to disclose the reasons for your appeal, please leave this section blank and report your allegations directly to appropriate campus office(s) (see below).

Students wishing to appeal an academic disqualification decision for cause related to violation of the University of California non-discrimination policies must report their allegation(s) to the appropriate campus office(s) for investigation.

I will report my allegations to (**please check all that apply**):

ADA/504 Compliance Office

Discrimination Prevention Office

Title IX Office

Committee on Privilege and Tenure

Staff Diversity and Compliance

Other – please specify:

Please note: students must notify the Division of Graduate Education (DGE) in writing if the appropriate campus office(s) decide to investigate their allegations. Students are responsible for contacting appropriate campus office(s) and making use of their investigation functions to support their appeal request.

If the student fails to initiate an investigation within 30 days of submitting a completed Academic Disqualification Appeal form to Academic Services, DGE will refer the student's case to the office(s) selected above.

STUDENT SIGNATURE

Signature: Date: