

**Texas A&M Institute for Neuroscience (TAMIN)
NRSC 485/491 Directed Studies/Research Opportunities**

Finding a Lab

- 1) Look through the list of attached labs. Keep in mind that the attached list does not include the entire faculty who are looking for students. Even if a member of the Faculty of Neuroscience is not on the list, they may still be taking students. Check the [TAMIN website](#) for additional faculty members and additional information regarding our faculty interests.
- 2) If you are interested in a faculty member's lab on the attached list, MAKE SURE that you meet the prerequisites.
- 3) Once you establish labs in which you meet the prerequisites and are interested in, you will either need to apply for the position and/or email the professor directly to arrange a meeting. When emailing a professor, let them know that you are interested in finding a lab, tell them who you are, major, classification and why you are interested in their research. Faculty members are very busy so don't expect an immediate response. Wait at least a week prior to sending a follow-up email.

What to Expect

Different professors have different requirements, but a common guideline is 3 hours per week in the lab for each hour of credit. When meeting with a professor keep in mind how many hours per week you will be able to commit to the lab. Make sure to ask what the professor's expectations of you will be, will you be taking the course as a 485 or a 491 and for how many hours.

How to Register for a 485/491

- 1) Once you've found a lab, you will need to contact any other labs you've spoken with to inform them of your decision. It is absolutely OK to let a faculty member know that you've decided to join another lab. Faculty may have others who would like to join the lab, so it is important to let everyone know your decision.
- 2) Students will need to download a 485 or 491 [form](#) from the TAMIN website and have the supervising professor complete the form. Both student and professor will need to sign the form.
- 3) Forms should be submitted via email to the TAMIN advising office, undergrad@tamin.tamu.edu . **Contracts are due no later than one week PRIOR to the first day of classes.**

Directed Studies (NRSC 485) vs. Research (NRSC 491)

Up to 6 hours of NRSC 485/491 can be used towards the NRSC minor. Students taking a NRSC 491 should be engaged in active research under a member of the Faculty of Neuroscience. Students engaged in research should gain experience in carrying out the scientific method, including developing and testing a hypothesis, taking ownership of projects by planning and conducting experiments, collecting and analyzing data, developing conclusions and reporting observations either as scientific publications or as presentations. NRSC 485 students are typically engaged in a literature review relevant to their research topic and develop the ability to discuss scientific articles with their research mentor, graduate students, other faculty and/or postdocs.

Check the TAMIN website (tamin.tamu.edu) for additional information.