

Biol 552: Professional Development for Biologists

Organizer: Dr. Eva Top, Dept. of Biological Sciences

Course goals: The intent of this course is to provide graduate students with opportunities for professional development in a number of areas. There will be opportunities for students to participate in all aspects of the course. You will complete several projects as part of this course, and will need to start these well before the deadline. The intent is that you actually use these projects – consider submitting your grant proposal and giving your presentation at a scientific meeting.

Presentation of a planned research project (oral). This will be a presentation that can be of a project you are actually planning or one that would be an extension of your research, if it is already well underway. The presentation should be a ‘chalk talk’ of not more than 15 minutes, and should include the following: Background; Hypothesis; Model system; Methods; Interpretation of possible results

Curriculum vitae. You will prepare your own CV.

Poster and oral presentation. You will prepare and present an oral presentation and a poster presentation on the same topic. If you are far enough into your program, you will present your own data. If you are just beginning your graduate program, you will present background information for the project you are considering or an overview of related work for your lab. You may not use a poster or oral presentation you have already given, but this is a good opportunity to prepare something you will present. You do not need to print your posters; we will project them using Powerpoint. You will briefly present your poster in maximum five minutes. Oral presentations will be 15 mins.

Grant proposal. You will prepare a grant proposal based on your proposed research (if you are early in your program) or on a potential postdoctoral project (if your research is well underway). You will follow the NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (DDIG) guidelines (http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5234), or the NIH NRSA Individual Fellowship guidelines (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-107.html>), or the NSF postdoctoral fellowship guidelines (http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12720&org=NSF&from=home). More details will be provided in class. First a brief one-page outline will be due, then a first proposal draft to be reviewed by your peers, a second draft for me to comment on, and a final proposal. During finals week we will review your proposals; you will be able to eavesdrop on the mock review panel to see how this aspect of the process works.

Grades: Grades will be based on the following distribution of points.

Presentation of a new research project	10 %
Curriculum vitae	10 %
Poster presentation	10%
Oral presentation	15 %
Grant proposal	40 %
Participation	15 %

Book to order: Friedland A.J. and C. L. Folt. 2009. Writing successful science proposals. 2nd edition. Yale University Press, New Haven & London.