

BCMB 8005 Seminar – Introduction to Graduate Research

Course #14-256

Location B121 Life Sciences
Meeting Time Fall 2009, Tuesdays, 5:25-7:25 PM (food and drink provided)
Seminar Organizer Dr. Walter K. Schmidt (wschmidt@bmb.uga.edu; 583-8241)
Course Website <http://www.bmb.uga.edu/wschmidt/bcmb8005.html>

Purpose – to provide practical knowledge and training for beginning BCMB graduate students.

Syllabus

Aug. 18 (Class 1) Welcome

1. Formal welcome
2. Outline of program expectations
3. Intro to University culture – Who’s who?
4. Keys to Success
5. Discussion of “What makes a good PhD student?” and “When personalities clash”
6. Roundtable discussion, Q&A

Aug. 25 (Class 2) Facilities and Safety

1. Life Sciences, CCRC, Fermentation facility, Science Library
2. Chemical store rooms and Stocked cabinets in Life Sciences and CCRC
3. Official UGA Safety policy and training (<http://www.esd.uga.edu/>)
4. Discussion of assigned reading – “Pharmacy Fire”
5. Roundtable discussion, Q&A

Sept. 1 (Class 3) Professional Development – Official Policies on Ethics

1. Official UGA Responsible Conduct policy
2. Examples of Scientific Misconduct – Plagiarism and Misrepresentation
3. Computer Use Policy
4. Grievance Procedures
5. Discussion of assigned reading – “Designer Debacle”, “Scientists Behaving Badly”, and “Images: keep a distinction...”
6. Roundtable discussion, Q&A

Sept. 8 (Class 4) Professional Development – The Successful Researcher

1. Hypothesis driven research
2. Data Organization and Duplicating results
3. Resources - What is PubMed? Cubby?
What is the NCBI database? Blast?
Library (Nature, Science, <http://www.libs.uga.edu/ejournals/>, Endnote, SciFinder)
Tomorrow’s Professor, Project Management, and other literature
4. Discussion of assigned reading – “Radford Position”, “Strong Inference”, and “The Man or the Moment?”
5. Roundtable discussion, Q&A

Sept. 15 (Class 5) Professional Development – Funding Opportunities / Grant Writing

1. Discussion of Professional Development Resources
2. Funding sources for your graduate education
3. Resources - <http://www.ovpr.uga.edu/sponprog/fundinginfo/index.html>
<http://www.grantsnet.org/>
4. Courses and Opportunities offered by the Graduate School
5. Discussion of resources and assigned reading - “Secrets of the Inner Circle” and “Starter R01 Grants”
6. Roundtable discussion, Q&A

Sept. 22 (Class 6) Meet the BCMB Faculty and Other Scientists

1. Invited presentations (4 x 15 min presentations).
2. Discussion of resources and assigned reading - “Doctoral Education Mismatch” and “Should I Stay or Should I Go?”
3. Closing discussion, Q&A