

BMS690 (Special Topics): Introduction to Grantwriting for Pre-doctoral Students in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Engineering

Course Coordinator:

Rob Wheeler
Associate Professor of Microbiology
University of Maine
Molecular & Biomedical Sciences
Hitchner Hall 209
robert.wheeler@umit.maine.edu
207-581-2890

Course Faculty:

Rob Wheeler, UMaine
Clarissa Henry, UMaine
Jo Anne Goodnight, TJL
Sven Davisson, TJL
Lynn Hutchison, TJL
Jason Charland, UMaine
Rob Burgess, TJL

Course Goals:

This course is intended to teach you the basics about writing a grant to secure funding for your scientific and/or engineering research. Throughout the semester, you will write a full grant and participate in a mock grant review process. The grant you write should encompass the work that one PhD student could accomplish, with their current resources, in 4-5 years of work. In addition to the nuts and bolts of grantwriting, this course will also cover some of the more bureaucratic aspects of writing (what organizations fund competitive grants, how do you find them, how do you tailor your proposal for them, how do you write a budget and biographical sketch). Writing a fundable grant requires imagination, knowledge of the scientific literature, time spent writing and rewriting to make your point crystal clear, and quite a bit of optimism. Are you ready for the challenge?

Textbook: *The Grant Application Writer's Workbook – National Institutes of Health*. Russell, S.W. and Morrison, D.C. (Revision 10/2010 and Updates for Form C and Biosketch). Available for order on-line @ <http://www.grantcentral.com/workbooks.html> \$75, but totally worth it.

Grading:

50% written assignments turned in ON TIME to your mentor.

Lead-up assignments: Lose 2% for up to a week late, lose 5% for 1-2 weeks late.

Complete grant: Lose 2% for each day late.

Re-written grant: Lose 2% for each day late.

50% Re-written grant grade

Tasks for grant mentors:

- 1) Read and comment on written work of student
- 2) Meet with student every 1-2 weeks to discuss their progress and provide feedback
- 3) Grade 1-2 grants using NIH review criteria.
- 4) Provide grade for grant and report on student written assignments, along with overall grade, by May 12th.

Date	Week #	Subject	Facilitator	Homework	Reading
14-Jan	Week 1	Course overview and Keys to writing a fundable grant	Wheeler	Order your "textbook"	
21-Jan	Week 2	Writing process overview video (Online only)	N/A	2 Grant ideas, with 2-3 Specific Aims	Chapters 2, 7, 8
28-Jan	Week 3	Developing your question	Henry	Rationale and Specific Aims page	Chapters 10 & 11
4-Feb	Week 4	Organization of the Research Strategy Section	Goodnight	Aim 1 (Rationale, Strategy, Outcomes, Pitfalls/Alternatives)	
11-Feb	Week 5	Key aspects of writing for the NIH: NRSA Graduate Fellowship	TBA	Aim 2 (Rationale, Strategy, Outcomes, Pitfalls/Alternatives)	
18-Feb	Week 6	Pre- and Post-award Management	Sven Davisson	Re-write Rationale and Specific Aims page	
25-Feb	Week 7	Organization of the Biosketch, Budget and Mentoring Plan	TBA	Significance and Innovation	Chapter 9
4-Mar	BREAK				
11-Mar	BREAK				
18-Mar	Week 8	Keys to writing for a private foundation	Hutchison	Abstract, Biosketch, Budget, Mentoring Plan, Human subjects, Vertebrate animals, etc.	Chapters 13, 14, 18, 19
25-Mar	Week 9	Key aspects of writing for the NSF	Charland		
1-Apr	Week 10	The review process	Burgess		
8-Apr	Week 11	Study section etiquette and training	Henry	Complete Grant Due	
15-Apr	Week 12	Mock Study Section	Henry	Primary and Secondary Reviews	
22-Apr	Week 13	Responding to critiques	Henry		
29-Apr	Week 14	Wrap up	Wheeler	Re-written grant due	
6-May	FINALS				