

BIOTRAIN 701: “Foundations in Professionalism”

Fall 2021

Course Directors: Kristin Russell: kristin.thole@duke.edu

Dr. Beth Sullivan: beth.sullivan@duke.edu

Calla Telzrow: calla.telzrow@duke.edu

Day/Time: Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 am

Format: Hybrid

Locations: Remote seminars: Zoom

In-person Gateway Groups: variable (see Table 2)

Overview:

This course is developed to introduce and engage Biomedical Ph.D. trainees in professionalism skills such as stress management, professional communication, and mentor-mentee relationship cultivation. Professionalism skills have been increasingly emphasized by the National Institution of Health (NIH) for incorporation into NIGMS T32 Pre-Doctoral Training programs to support the graduate student experience and aid in biomedical career transitions. This course is team-taught by faculty members and PhD students from various School of Medicine (SoM) Ph.D. training programs. The content is delivered as a combination of seminars and small group mentoring sessions called “Gateway Groups”. The goal of these interconnected sessions is twofold: to contextualize professionalism skills in biomedical science and to facilitate professionalism skill building.

Course Texts & Materials:

Texts for this course will comprise primary and secondary literature articles selected by course directors, lecturers, and/or Gateway Group mentors. All course texts, materials, recordings, and Zoom links (when applicable) will be available on the course Sakai site. All assignments will also be submitted through Sakai.

Zoom Meetings:

All Zoom links will be made available on the course Sakai site. During class sessions hosted through Zoom, it is highly encouraged that cameras remain on to help facilitate discussion. Microphones should be muted when students are not actively speaking.

General Course Requirements:

The students will:

1. engage with background, pre-class content, and interactive seminars.
2. complete an online assessment and/or activity on selected class topics.
3. actively participate in Gateway Groups discussions, by asking questions and/or sharing experiences, opinions, thoughts, etc.

Assessment Information:

Students will receive credit for the course based on attendance and participation. Students will be required to attend all seminars. Students who are unable to attend a seminar live will be required to view a recording on Sakai. Students will also be expected to attend all Gateway Group sessions. Students

will be permitted to miss one (1) Gateway Group session and still receive full course credit. Participation will be evaluated by both faculty and peer mentors after each Gateway Group session, (1-5; 1 = no participation, 5 = high level of participation). Students must have an average participation score ≥ 2 at the end of the semester to receive course credit.

Objectives & Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

By the end of the course, participants will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Objective 1: To prepare students for success in graduate school through professionalism skill building

SLO i: identify and prepare for high-stress events in graduate school based on personal strengths and weaknesses

SLO ii: communicate in direct and respectful manners with diverse groups of individuals in a professional setting

Objective 2: To provide students with a supportive professional network

SLO iii: identify and initiate mentor-mentee relationships with diverse mentors

SLO iv: clearly communicate with mentors to optimize mentorability

Objective 3: To prepare students for diverse biomedical careers through professionalism skill building

SLO v: apply and refine professionalism skills developed in graduate school to individual career path

SLO vi: pursue and participate in early biomedical career development activities

Disability Statement:

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in the class are encouraged to contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 684-5917 or disabilities@aes.duke.edu as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

COVID Reminders and Policies:

All participating students, faculty, and staff are expected to follow current Duke safety policies, including wearing appropriate face coverings, maintaining physical distancing as appropriate, and adhering to other safety guidelines. Please be aware of [health resources](#) for students, including [wellness](#) and [mental health](#). Together we can help prevent COVID-19 spread by being vaccinated, wearing masks while indoors, and complying with weekly surveillance testing. For updates, please visit the [Duke United](#) site often.

Academic Integrity:

Duke University is a community dedicated to scholarship, leadership, and service and to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect, and accountability. Citizens of this community commit to reflect upon and uphold these principles in all academic and non-academic endeavors, and to protect and promote a culture of integrity. To uphold the Duke Community Standard:

The student will not lie, cheat, or steal in their academic endeavors;

The student will conduct themselves honorably in all their endeavors; and

The student will act if the Standard is compromised.

Students should also read the Duke policy on Academic Dishonesty at <https://studentaffairs.duke.edu/conduct/z-policies/academic-dishonesty>

Table 1. Tentative Schedule:

All assignments should be completed prior to the class meeting. Changes to the schedule are at the discretion of the course directors.

Date	Topics/Speakers	Delivery Method	Assignment Due
August 26	Seminar: Course Introduction & CliftonStrengths Assessment Overview (Kristin Russell)	Zoom	Complete CliftonStrengths Assessment (see email link and complete attestation on Sakai)
September 2	Gateway Groups: Leveraging your unique strengths for success in graduate school and beyond	In-person	
September 9	Seminar: Characterizing Stress and Mental Health in Duke Biomedical Graduate Students (Zachary Rosenthal, PhD)	Zoom	
September 16	Gateway Groups: Identifying and preparing for high-stress events in graduate school	In-person	Practice wellness activity (Sakai)
September 23	Seminar: The Art of Finding Supportive and Diverse Mentors (Peer Mentor Panel)	Zoom	TBD by peer mentors
September 30	Seminar: Mentorability: How to be an Effective Mentee and Build a Reciprocal Partnership (Faculty Mentor Panel: Mike Boyce, Giselle López, & Carolyn Coyne)	Zoom	Submit questions for panel (Sakai)
October 7	Seminar: Conflict Resolution and Difficult Conversations (Dinetta Richardson)	Zoom	
October 14	Gateway Groups: Approaching important conversations with advisors and mentors	In-person	Watch “Crucial Conversations” video (Sakai)

October 21	Seminar: Duke OPTIONS for First-Year PhD Students (Melissa Bostrom, PhD)	Zoom	Complete Duke OPTIONS profile (Sakai)
October 28	Gateway Groups: Managing your thesis: Using time management and project management tools to plan your scientific and professional development	In-person	Watch “Time Management” video (Sakai) Read about project management tools (Sakai)
November 4	Seminar: Career Development Planning for First Year PhD Students (Rachel Coleman)	Zoom	MyIDP – Section 1 (Sakai)
November 11	Seminar: Cultural Awareness and Diversity in Science (Johnna Frierson, PhD)	Zoom	
November 18	Gateway Groups: Applying cultural awareness in graduate education and biomedical research	In-person	

Table 2. Gateway Groups:

	Gateway Group 1	Gateway Group 2	Gateway Group 3	Gateway Group 4	Gateway Group 5	Gateway Group 6	Gateway Group 7	Gateway Group 8	Gateway Group 9	Gateway Group 10	Mentors-at-Large
Peer Mentor	Akanksha Manghrani	Bill Butler	Chin Yee Tan	Matt Oliver	Evangeline Bao	Josh Ginzal	Nisa Semesta	Christabel Tan	Jovita Byemerwa	Liam Lewis	Arielle Fogel
Faculty Mentor	Matt Scaglione	Laurie Saunders	Sarah Goetz	Bernard Mathey-Prevot	Kristin Russell	Ashley Moseman	Debby Silver	Dennis Frank-Ito	Anthony Filiano	Jatin Roper	Maria Ciofani
Location	MSRBIII 1125	MSRBIII 1261	408 CARL Building	MSRBI 001	Nanaline Duke 323	415 Jones Building	0010 CARL Building	Nanaline Duke 147	GSRBI 4002	GSRBI 2071	Zoom