BIOTRAIN 701: “Foundations in Professionalism”
Fall 2023

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Day/Time: Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 am
Format: In-person (with some asynchronous, online content)
Locations: In-person classes: Love Auditorium
Gateway Groups: variable locations (TBD)

Overview:
This mini-course introduces and engages Biomedical Ph.D. trainees in professionalism skills development such as communication, mentor-mentee relationships, building resilience, and navigating professional feedback. Development of professionalism skills is among the top training expectations of the National Institution of Health (NIH) for T32 Pre-Doctoral Training programs to support the graduate student experience and aid in biomedical career transitions.

BIOTRAIN 701 was co-developed in 2021 by OBGE with a senior SOM PhD student who provided direct insight and feedback into the professional skills that they and biomedical PhD alumni articulated as important for effectively navigating graduate school and successfully integrating into the workforce post-graduation.

This course is team-taught by faculty members, external experts, and PhD student Peer Mentors from various School of Medicine (SoM) Ph.D. training programs. The content is delivered as a combination of interactive lectures, pre-readings and case studies, and small group sessions called “Gateway Groups”. The goal of these interconnected sessions is threefold: to contextualize professionalism skills in biomedical science, to facilitate professionalism skill building, and to build community among the 17 SOM PhD programs.

Course Texts & Materials:
Texts for this course will comprise case studies and other relevant literature selected by course directors, lecturers, and/or Gateway Group mentors. All course texts, materials, recordings, and Zoom links (if applicable) will be available on the course Sakai site.

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 are required to attend all classes. Failure to attend class will result in a no-credit grade for the class and requires consultation with course directors regarding steps to restore course credit. Students are also expected to attend all Gateway Groups sessions which count as classes. Those who are unable to attend in-person Gateway Groups should contact the Course Directors and/or Mentor-at-large (RD Malek) regarding course credit for Gateway Group absence.
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: develop effective and inclusive communication skills and gain insight into the dynamics of different communication styles
- SLO iii: communicate in direct and respectful manners with diverse groups of individuals from a variety of backgrounds in a professional setting

Objective 2: To provide students with a supportive professional network
- SLO iv: identify and initiate mentor-mentee relationships with diverse mentors and interdisciplinary interactions
- SLO v: clearly communicate with mentors to optimize mentorability

Objective 3: To prepare students for diverse biomedical careers through professionalism skill building
- SLO vi: apply and refine professionalism skills developed in graduate school to individual career path
- SLO vii: 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@aas.duke.edu as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

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 themself 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
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics/Speakers</th>
<th>Delivery Method</th>
<th>Pre-work Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 31</td>
<td>Introduction to Course, CliftonStrengths, Communication (Sullivan/Russell)</td>
<td>In-person</td>
<td>CliftonStrengths and Conflict Communication Style pre-reading</td>
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<td>Sept 7</td>
<td><strong>Faculty Mentoring Panel:</strong> The Art of Finding Supportive and Diverse Mentors and Being an Effective Mentee (led by Peer Mentors)</td>
<td>In-person</td>
<td>Submit your questions ahead of time</td>
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<td>Sept 14</td>
<td><strong>Using Your Strengths in Interpersonal and Inclusive Communication</strong></td>
<td>In-person GG</td>
<td>Reading, Case study</td>
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<td>Sept 21</td>
<td><strong>Imposter Syndrome, Stressors, and Well-being</strong></td>
<td>In-person GG</td>
<td>Reading, Case study</td>
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<td>Sept 28</td>
<td><strong>Mapping Out Your Path Through the PhD (using IDPs and T3 Prof Development Tab)</strong></td>
<td>In-person GG</td>
<td>Reading, Case study</td>
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<td>Oct 5</td>
<td><strong>Giving and Receiving Feedback</strong></td>
<td>In-person GG</td>
<td>Reading, Case study</td>
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