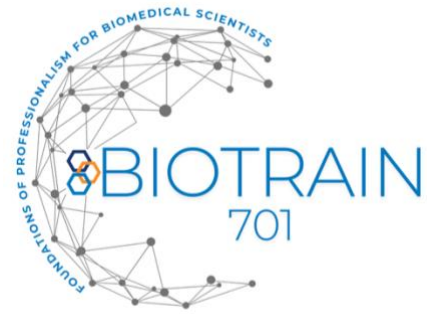


BIOTRAIN 701: Foundations of Professionalism for Biomedical Scientists



Course Directors:

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Director – OBGE

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Day/Time:

August 28 – October 2: Thursdays 8:30 – 9:30 AM

Format:

In person

Locations:

Instructional sessions: LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium)

Gateway Groups: Variable (see Gateway Groups table below)

Grading Basis:

CR/NC

Course Overview:

This mini-course is designed to engage biomedical PhD trainees in developing essential professional skills that are critical throughout graduate training and beyond. Cultivating these professional skills aligns with the top training priorities outlined by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for T32 Predoctoral Training programs, which aim to enhance the graduate student experience and facilitate smooth transitions into biomedical careers. BIOTRAIN 701 was developed in 2021 by OBGE in collaboration with a senior PhD student from the School of Medicine (SoM) using direct insight and feedback from biomedical PhD alumni about the professional skills essential for successfully navigating graduate school and transitioning into the workforce after graduation.

This course is team-taught by faculty and PhD student Peer Mentors across SoM PhD training programs. The content is delivered through a combination of didactic instructional sessions and small group discussion sessions called “Gateway Groups”. The goal of these interconnected sessions is threefold: to contextualize professional skills in biomedical science, to facilitate professionalism skill building, and to build community among the SoM PhD programs.

Class Delivery:

Classes will be held as a combination of in-person instructional sessions (didactic lectures) and Gateway Groups (small group discussions). The instructional sessions will be held in LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium). Gateway Group locations are variable, listed in the Gateway Group table below and on the course Canvas site in the “**Gateway Group Information**” module.

Course Communications:

E-mail communication is welcome at any time. If you do not receive a reply from a Course Director or Peer Mentor within 24 hours, then assume that they did not receive it and re-send it. Please include an identifier in the “Subject”

section of your email (e.g., BIOTRAIN 701) to assist the recipient in linking the email to the class. You may email the Course Directors or Peer Mentors directly or use the inbox/messaging function in Canvas.

Course Materials:

A laptop or tablet are required for this course and should be brought to each class meeting.

Course materials, including this syllabus, are available on the course Canvas site. You can find the syllabus and course schedule in the “**Syllabus & schedule**” module on the course Home page. Materials and information for each class meeting can be accessed through the corresponding date module on the course Home page.

Course Requirements:

The students will:

- Engage with background, pre-class content, and instructional sessions.
- Actively participate in Gateway Groups discussions, by asking questions, sharing experiences, sharing opinions, completing activities, etc.

Attendance and Assessment Information:

Students will earn course credit based on attendance and active participation. Regular attendance and engagement are critical to your success in graduate school, as this course fosters meaningful discussions and collaborative learning experiences. As a result, full attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. Missing any class without completing the make-up assignments (detailed below and in the corresponding date module on the course Canvas site) will result in a no-credit grade for the course. In such cases, students must consult with the Course Directors to discuss the necessary steps to potentially regain course credit.

If you are unable to attend a class for an approved reason (e.g., illness, participation in a retreat, or attendance at a conference) you are required to do the following to ensure that you engage with the course content and maintain your progress despite your absence:

1. Contact your Peer Mentor and the Course Directors to notify them of your absence ahead of time.
2. Watch the recording of the instructional portion of the class on the Canvas site.
3. Write and submit a one-page written reflection on the Gateway Group materials covered during that class to your Peer Mentor prior to the next scheduled class meeting.

Course Competencies, Objectives, and Student Learning Outcomes:

OBGE Competency: Communication Skills / Communication with the Public

- Objective: To prepare students for success in graduate school through professionalism skill building.
 - Learning outcome: Identify and prepare for high-stress events in graduate school based on personal strengths and weaknesses.
 - Learning outcome: Develop effective and inclusive communication skills and gain insight into the dynamics of different communication styles.
 - Learning outcome: Communicate in direct and respectful manners with diverse groups of individuals from a variety of backgrounds in a professional setting.
- Objective: To provide students with a supportive professional network.
 - Learning outcome: Identify and initiate mentor-mentee relationships with diverse mentors and interdisciplinary interactions.
 - Learning outcome: Clearly communicate with mentors to optimize mentorability.

OBGE Competency: Resilience and Survival Skills / Motivation

- Objective: To prepare students for diverse biomedical careers through professionalism skill building.
 - Learning outcome: Apply and refine professionalism skills developed in graduate school to individual career path.
 - Learning outcome: 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.

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:

- Students will not lie, cheat, or steal in their academic endeavors.
- Students will conduct themselves honorably in all their endeavors.
- Students will act if the Standard is compromised.

Students should also read the Duke policy on Academic Dishonesty in the full Duke Community Standard:

<https://dukecommunitystandard.students.duke.edu/policy/academic-dishonesty/>

Gateway Groups:

This table contains the Peer Mentor information and meeting location for each Gateway Group. Student Gateway Group assignments can be found on the course Canvas site in the “**Gateway Group information**” module.

Gateway Group	Peer Mentor	Meeting Location
Gateway Group 1	Alex Dittmar	LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium)
Gateway Group 2	Fayrouz ElWesmi	LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium)
Gateway Group 3	Jess Finkler	LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium)
Gateway Group 4	Marco Gontijo	LSRC B102
Gateway Group 5	Sophia Link	LSRC B105
Gateway Group 6	Rachel Loney	LSRC B240
Gateway Group 7	Jim Lopez	LSRC C335
Gateway Group 8	Celeste Marin	Nanaline Duke 247
Gateway Group 9	Zihan Yan	Nanaline Duke 148A

Class Schedule:

Date	Topic(s)	Presenter(s)	Location(s)
August 28	Mentor-Mentee Relationships	SoM faculty panel	LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium)
September 4	Tracking Your Graduate Journey	Celeste Marin Zihan Yan Dr. Chris Nicchitta	8:30 – 9 AM: LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium) 9 – 9:30 AM: Gateway Group rooms
September 11	Scientific Publishing	Alex Dittmar Jim Lopez Faculty TBD	8:30 – 9 AM: LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium) 9 – 9:30 AM: Gateway Group rooms
September 18	Research Funding and Grants	Sophia Link Rachel Loney Faculty TBD	8:30 – 9 AM: LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium) 9 – 9:30 AM: Gateway Group rooms
September 25	Professional Development and Career Planning	Fayrouz ElWesmi Jess Finkler Dr. Mike Boyce	8:30 – 9 AM: LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium) 9 – 9:30 AM: Gateway Group rooms
October 2	Making Professional Connections	Marco Gontijo Emily Green Dr. Kate Hoffman	8:30 – 9 AM: LSRC B101 (Love Auditorium) 9 – 9:30 AM: Gateway Group rooms