

PBIO 8200 Grant Writing with a Focus on Plants and Microbes (2 credits)

Monday 2:30-3:50, 2507 Plant Sciences

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Seminar Goal: The ability to write fundable grant proposals is an essential skill for scientists in academia. This course guides students through the fundamentals of research grant proposal writing, and provides insight into the submission and review process. The course is aimed at 2nd year graduate students conducting research on plants and microbes. Students are expected to develop a proposal on their dissertation research that is compliant to specified guidelines. Proposals will be critically evaluated during different stages of the proposal writing process, and the final submissions will be reviewed by fellow students, post-doctoral researchers with relevant expertise to the proposal topics and the course instructors. The final product should be a high quality dissertation proposal. During the course, the students will gain writing skills, logical and critical thinking skills, and an appreciation for the need to be precise and concise when preparing grant proposals.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in ‘A Culture of Honesty’. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy>.

Class website: eLC

Tentative Seminar Schedule:

- 1/14 Lecture (LAD):
 - How to write a great grant proposal
 - Clear Writing
 - Instructions for Talking Points
- 1/21 No class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; Work on talking points
- 1/28 Presentation and critique of talking points (group 1)
- 2/4 Presentation and critique of talking points (group 2)
- 2/11 Lecture (LAD):
 - Exploring funding possibilities
 - Writing tips & discussion of proposal guidelines
 - Start working on proposal...
- 2/18 What are reviewers looking for? Examples of (un)successful proposals and their reviews (KMD)
- 2/25 Working Groups critique initial drafts of your proposals
- 3/4 Working Groups critique initial drafts of your proposals
- 3/11 No class Spring break 3/11-3/15 Work on proposals
- 3/18 Proposal budgets and supplemental materials (LAD)
- 3/25 Working group meetings for feedback on final draft of proposals
- 4/1 How review panels work & what do you do when a proposal is funded/not funded (KMD)

- 4/8 Optional working group meeting or initial panel critique, as needed
- 4/15 Panel critique & ranking of final proposals
- 4/22 Panel critique & ranking of final proposals
- 4/29 Panel critique & ranking of final proposals

Assignments (more explanation provided when assigned, due dates posted on eLC)

Assignment 1 (10 points):

Turn in 1-page Talking points by Thursday January 24 by 12 noon to Lisa Donovan by email (ldonovan@uga.edu). The talking points will then be made available on eLC for critique.

Assignment 2 (10 points):

Read and critique the talking points in group 1 of your fellow students, using rubric to be provided, and come to class prepared to discuss your critiques in class and turn in your rubrics.

Assignment 3 (10 points):

Read and critique the talking points in group 2 of your fellow students, using rubric to be provided, and come to class prepared to discuss your critiques in class and turn in your rubrics.

Assignment 4 (5 points):

Turn in funding source description (check eLC for further information).

Assignment 5 (15 points):

Turn in an initial complete draft of your research proposal for working group constructive critiques (check eLC for further information).

Assignment 6 (15 points):

Turn in written reviews for working group proposals. Students will present a brief summary of the proposal(s) assigned to them and lead the constructive critique (check eLC for further information).

Assignment 7 (15 points):

Turn in revised complete proposal (check eLC for further information).

Assignment 8 (20 points):

Turn in reviews for proposals being discussed and complete a "panel summary" for one of those proposals after it is critiqued (check eLC for further information).

Grading policy: A-F

Grading: A-F; To get an A grade, you must complete all 8 assignments to a high standard, and actively participate in each class unless you away for research and make prior arrangements with instructors and relevant working group members.