

GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS AND EVENTS

Audience Matters



The course GRD 701 is built upon a simple principle: Presenters must recognize the importance of audience. With that as a theme, the course focuses on building skills for public speaking and presentations. The preparation side of these skills includes scope of content, organization of information, and methods of presentation (e.g., posters, slide talks). Each of these must be adapted to some degree for different audiences. The practice side of these skills includes verbal and nonverbal communication, handling questions, and preparing visual aids. These too depend in part on what is appropriate for a given audience.

Students will give at least three presentations to the class. These presentations will focus on the students' course or lab work, they will be videotaped, and the class as a whole will offer feedback and constructive criticism during review of the taped presentations. When this activity works well, it not only gives the presenter a chance to practice, but also gives the rest of the class a chance to practice their skills as a critic and as an audience member.

Students will also participate in small group discussions in which they explore communication patterns (their own and those of others) and learn how to improve their interpersonal communication skills. (After all, you can't talk to a group if you can't talk to another person.)

Finally, the course is offered in two sections: one for native English Speakers and one for nonnative speakers. Mr. Lee Griner teaches 701B, for native speakers, and Ms. Nancy Abney teaches 701A, for nonnative speakers. The thrust of the course is the same in both sections, but Nancy is trained to work with nonnative speakers and includes skills specific to their needs, such as pronunciation, patterns of speech and syntax, idioms of the English language, and cultural aspects of public speaking.

The course is taught every Spring, Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 8:30. All of the Graduate School's courses are briefly described at <http://www.uab.edu/profdev>



Graduate School, Hill University Center Suite 511
1400 University Blvd., Birmingham, AL 35294-1150
205-934-8227, 800-975-GRAD (4723)
<http://www.uab.edu/graduate>

Graduate School Calendar: January-May 2002

JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F
		2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11 12
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
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25	26	27	28	

MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
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APRIL

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
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22	23	24	25	26
29	30			May 4

MPH, MSPH, DrPH, and MSN students: Check with your Graduate Program Directors for other deadlines, which differ from those of the Graduate School.

Jan 2: Classes begin

Jan 25: Deadline for application for degree for May graduation

March 8: deadline to defend for spring graduation; deadline for Graduate Student Research Day abstracts (5 p.m.)

March 8, 9: Career Workshop for Graduate Students (see page 4)

March 18: Deadline for defended thesis/dissertation to be turned into the Graduate School

April 5: Graduate Student Research Day

April 24: Deadline for Plan 2 final paper

May 4: Commencement (Saturday)

Spring Term Professional Development Offerings

701A & B: **Presentation and Discussion Skills** (A, non-native speakers, BBRB 263; B, native speakers, BBRB 170) Wednesdays, 5:30-8:00

704: **Specialized Instruction**, by appointment

705: **Teaching at the College Level and Beyond**, Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30, BBRB 263

708: **Writing Professionally**, Jan. 12, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Lunch provided, CH 205

709: **Writing Fellowships**, Fridays, 2:00 - 4:30 p.m.

710: **Career Workshop for Graduate Students**, January 8-9 (Friday evening & Saturday), BBRB 170

721: **Speaking and Listening Strategies**, for non-native speakers, Thursdays, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Bell 211

For more details, see the UAB Class Schedule, visit the GRD web site (www.uab.edu/profdev), or contact Dr. Julia Austin at 975-6539 or jaustin@uab.edu

Graduate Student Research Day:
April 5, 2002

UAB graduate students have a unique opportunity to present the findings of their research to an academic audience. Every spring, the Graduate School Sigma Xi, and the Graduate Student Association sponsor Graduate Student Research Day.

This event offers students a chance to compete for 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place prizes in their areas of study. Areas include life sciences, engineering, arts and humanities, physical sciences, as well as others, depending on the students who register to participate.

This year's event will be held on April 5, 2002, in the great Hall of Hill University Center. Students must complete their abstracts and submit them online by the deadline, which is March 8. Both rules for entering and the abstract form can be found online at

www.uab.edu/graduate/researchday

Judges Sought for Graduate Student Research Day

Faculty members are encouraged to support graduate students in their areas by serving as judges for this event. The commitment is for either the morning or afternoon of April 5. For further information, please contact Kellie Carter at 975-8724 or kcarter@uab.edu.

Planning to Write a Thesis or Dissertation?

On January 22, 2002, the Graduate School will again offer its free seminar designed to help students complete their graduation requirements with a little less stress, **Staying Afloat While Preparing a Thesis or Dissertation**. This spring, the seminar will be held in HUC 413, 4 - 6 p.m. No registration is required, and students at any stage of their graduate studies may benefit from attending. Topics covered include

- Selecting and working with a graduate study committee
- Choosing a style guide
- Meeting Graduate School requirements and deadlines

Thesis and Dissertation News:

For hundreds of years, defense meetings have been public events. Three points in the UAB thesis guide address that tradition of educational openness. First the Graduate School recognizes only the public defense. Second, you should schedule the defense at a time when all of your committee members can attend. Third, you should submit notification of your defense meeting to the UAB Reporter. You do want people to know you're finished, right?

SPRING 2002

Career Workshop and Job Fair, March 8 and 9

Plans are well underway for the 2002 Career Workshop for Graduate Students (GRD 710, 1 credit hour, call number 2829).

For Saturday, November 9, panel discussions are planned on the diversity of jobs in academic, industrial, and governmental markets. Afternoon sessions are to include strategies for job searches, opportunities and issues for women and minorities, and a session on issues for students and postdoctoral fellows who are not U.S. citizens. A session on funding opportunities for postdocs is also planned, and an on-site job fair will give registered attendees a chance to meet employers from a variety of fields and companies. Check the Industry Roundtable's web site for developments (www.uab.edu/roundtable).

A special get-acquainted session on Friday night, March 8, will be followed by an informal reception. Make plans now to register and attend!

Options for Course on Teaching

This spring is the first term in which students have the option of registering for GRD 705 as either a 2- or 3-credit hour course.

Students registered under the 2-credit hour option will attend weekly class meetings and take part in in-class and on-the-web assignments designed to familiarize them with the challenges and opportunities for modern college instructors.

Students in the 3-hour option will also work with the instructor to identify an area of interest to teachers; students will then research that area and give a micro-lesson to the class on their findings.

GRD 705, Teaching at the College Level and Beyond, will meet on Tuesdays, 5:30-8:00, in Bevill 263. For more, contact Julia Austin (5-6539, jaustin@uab.edu).

UAB GRADUATE
SCHOOL

HUC 511
1530 3rd Ave S
Birmingham, AL 35294-1150

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