

GBS 746.VTA – Crafting a Research Proposal

1 Credit Hour | Spring 2018 | January 8 – April 16, 2018 | Monday 4-5pm | Shelby 515

Course Director: Dr. David Schneider | dschneid@uab.edu | 934-4781

GBS Vision Statement:

“Demonstrating world-class excellence in all areas of biomedical research through the achievements of our students.”

GBS Mission Statement:

“Driving biomedical discovery through interdisciplinary training and innovative research.”

GBS Core Competencies:

GBS offers a wide array of courses, seminars, journal clubs, research opportunities, and professional development that are designed to support the growth and development of our students. The following list consists of desirable competencies for our students to achieve while in this course:

- Understand score criteria for research proposals, using modern NIH guidelines
- Practice constructive critique methods
- Compose a coherent research proposal for potential revision and submission

Course Objectives:

Clear and concise communication is very important for success in many different science-related fields. Importantly, a scientist must understand the audience and craft his/her presentation to fit the expectations and needs of each group. In preparing a grant, the objective is to convince the reader that the project is important, well-reasoned, likely to succeed, and impactful for the field. This course will introduce key concepts regarding the preparation of a research proposal, expose students to the process of evaluating a research proposal, and result in a peer-reviewed proposal at the end of 15 weeks.

Study Section:

An NIH-style study section will be conducted live on the last day of class, with all grants discussed (that class period may run longer than 1 hour).

Grading:

Grades will be assigned based on student participation, attendance, quality of effort invested in peer evaluation, and quality of the written proposal produced. There are no tests or quizzes.

Course Outline:

DATE	SESSION TOPICS/ACTIVITIES	LECTURER
Mon. 01/08/2018	Discuss mental preparation strategies, score criteria for research grants, and the goal of an aims page (Assignment, draft an aims page)	David Schneider
Mon. 01/15/2018	MLK day, no class	
Mon. 01/22/2018	Significance and Innovation, assign 2 critiques per student (for aims page)	David Schneider
Mon. 01/29/2018	Research strategy format and objectives. Return critiques and revise aims.	David Schneider
Mon. 02/05/2018	Evaluate examples of research grant sections and begin writing your own Strategy.	David Schneider
Mon. 02/12/2018	Discuss criteria for F awards (training plan, etc.)	Jim Collawn
Mon. 02/19/2018	Discuss budget and "other" documents	David Schneider
Mon. 02/26/2018	No class (Schneider at study section, ironically)	David Schneider
Mon. 03/05/2018	Human and vertebrate animal issues and forms	Lisa Schweibert
Mon. 03/12/2018	Meet for open forum Q&A regarding writing concerns	David Schneider
Mon. 03/19/2018	Turn in complete draft (1 page aims, 6 page research strategy) and review assignments will be made. Format of grant critique presented with template.	David Schneider
Mon. 03/26/2018	No class (work on reviews)	
Mon. 04/02/2018	No class (work on reviews)	
Mon. 04/09/2018	No class (work on reviews)	
Mon. 04/16/2018	Study Section. Three written critiques provided (2 student, one faculty)	David Schneider

Disability Support Services:

UAB is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students. If you are a student with a disability that qualifies under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and you require accommodations, please contact Disability Support Services for information on accommodations, registration and procedures. Requests for reasonable accommodations involve an interactive process and consist of a collaborative effort among the student, DSS, faculty and staff. If you are registered with Disability Support Services, please contact the course director to discuss accommodations that may be necessary in this course. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Disability Support Services, please call (205)934-4205 or visit <http://www.uab.edu/dss>.