

## Professional Skills for Careers in Biosciences (PSCB)

### Certificate Program Syllabus 2024-2025

#### **Purpose:**

The PSCB course is intended for graduate students and postdocs to broaden their experience in critical areas such as leadership, communication, budgeting, marketing, and more. We plan to cover a different topic over each of the 12 lunch workshops, concluding with a capstone project. Each session will meet from 12–1PM.

#### **Course Completion Requirements:**

Participants must attend 9 out of 12 sessions (75%) and the MANDATORY capstone event to obtain a certificate of completion. Makeup work can be done for one session at most. No homework will be required.

All classes will meet in-person, room 612 on the concourse level of IGB.

| Date                  | Session                                                      | Guest Speaker(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Location |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Thursday,<br>9/12/24  | Week 1: Career Panel                                         | <b>Career Panelist:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shelby Keye</b>, Assistant Professor (UIUC)</li> <li>• <b>Jesse Dill</b>, Senior Director of Business Development (Ginkgo Bioworks)</li> <li>• <b>Leila Shinn</b>, R&amp;D Life Sciences Senior Scientist (PepsiCo)</li> <li>• <b>Donald Cropek</b>, Senior Research Scientist (CERL)</li> </ul> | IGB 612  |
| Thursday,<br>9/26/24  | Week 2:<br>Writing a Compelling<br>Resume and CV             | <b>Derek Attig</b><br><i>Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development</i><br>UIUC Graduate College                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | IGB 612  |
| Thursday,<br>10/10/24 | Week 3:<br>Journal Editors and<br>Submissions                | <b>May Berenbaum</b><br>Head of Entomology, Swanlund Endowed Chair<br>Director, Center for Advanced Study<br>PNAS Editor-in-Chief                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | IGB 612  |
| Thursday,<br>10/24/24 | Week 4:<br>Information<br>Resources and Career<br>Highlights | <b>Kelli Trei</b><br><i>Biosciences Librarian and Associate Professor</i><br><i>University of Illinois Library</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | IGB 612  |
| Thursday,<br>11/7/24  | Week 5:<br>Interviewing and<br>Networking                    | <b>Patricia Simpson</b><br>Director, Academic Advising & Career Services<br>UIUC School of Chemical Sciences                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | IGB 612  |
| Thursday,<br>11/21/24 | Week 6:<br>Mastering the Art of<br>Negotiations              | <b>Mingshuang Ji</b><br><i>Instructor of Business Administration</i><br><i>Gies College of Business</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | IGB 612  |

|                      |                                                   |                                                                                                                                  |         |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Thursday,<br>12/5/24 | Week 7:<br>Entrepreneurship                       | <b>Brennan Duty</b><br><i>Senior Director of Business Development<br/>Ginkgo Bioworks</i>                                        | IGB 612 |
| Thursday,<br>1/30/25 | Week 8:<br>Government<br>& Policy                 | <b>Marissa Brewer</b><br><i>Director of Advocacy<br/>External Relations and Communications<br/>University of Illinois System</i> | IGB 612 |
| Thursday,<br>2/13/25 | Week 9:<br>Invention Disclosures<br>and Patenting | <b>Hannah Darcy</b><br><i>Associate Technology Director<br/>UIUC Office of Technology Management</i>                             | IGB 612 |
| Thursday,<br>2/27/25 | Week 10:<br>Leading a Successful<br>Team          | <b>Angela Urban</b><br><i>Associate Technical Director<br/>Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL)</i>               | IGB 612 |
| Thursday,<br>3/13/25 | Week 11:<br>Design Principles for<br>Scientists   | <b>Mirhee Lee</b><br><i>Assistant Art Director<br/>Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology</i>                               | IGB 612 |
| Thursday,<br>3/27/25 | Week 12:<br>Funding in Bioscience                 | <b>Jonathan Sweedler</b><br><i>James R. Eiszner Family Endowed Chair in Chemistry<br/>UIUC Department of Chemistry</i>           | IGB 612 |
| Saturday,<br>4/12/25 | Mandatory Capstone<br>Event                       | Communications Workshop<br>9 AM – 4 PM                                                                                           | IGB 612 |

For any questions, please email Dan Urban ([djurban2@illinois.edu](mailto:djurban2@illinois.edu)) or Sarah Choi ([schoi44@illinois.edu](mailto:schoi44@illinois.edu)).

**\*\*\*Please note that the final Capstone training will take place from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, 4/12/25.\*\*\***