

Professional Skills for Careers in Biosciences (PSCB)

Certificate Program Syllabus 2025-2026

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, 9/11/25	Week 1: Career Panel	Career Panelists: • Esther Ngumbi Assistant Professor (UIUC) • Owen Ryan Research Director (ADM) • Bridget Esteves Principal Scientist (Mars Inc.) • Mark Johnson, Research Biologist (CERL)	IGB 612
Thursday, 9/25/25	Week 2: Writing a Compelling Resume and CV	Derek Attig <i>Assistant Dean for Career and Professional Development</i> UIUC Graduate College	IGB 612
Thursday, 10/9/25	Week 3: Journal Editors and Submissions	Bianca Lopez Associate Editor Science	IGB 612
Thursday, 10/23/25	Week 4: Interviewing and Networking	Patricia Simpson Director, Academic Advising & Career Services UIUC School of Chemical Sciences	IGB 612
Thursday, 11/6/25	Week 5: Information Resources	Kelli Trei Biosciences Librarian and Associate Professor University of Illinois Library	IGB 612
Thursday, 11/20/25	Week 6: Imposter Syndrome	May Berenbaum Head of Entomology, Swanlund Endowed Chair Director, Center for Advanced Study PNAS Editor-in-Chief	IGB 612

Thursday, 12/4/25	Week 7:	[canceled due to illness]	IGB 612
Thursday, 1/29/26	Week 8: Government & Policy	Melissa Haas and Robert Flider <i>External Relations and Communications Community and Government Relations University of Illinois System</i>	IGB 612
Thursday, 2/12/26	Week 9: Invention Disclosures and Patenting	Hannah Darcy <i>Associate Technology Director UIUC Office of Technology Management</i>	IGB 612
Thursday, 2/26/26	Week 10: Funding in Bioscience	Jonathan Sweedler <i>James R. Eiszner Family Endowed Chair in Chemistry UIUC Department of Chemistry</i>	IGB 612
Thursday, 3/12/26	Week 11: Design Principles for Scientists	Mirhee Lee <i>Assistant Art Director Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology</i>	IGB 612
Thursday, 3/26/26	Week 12: Mastering the Art of Negotiations	Mingshuang Ji <i>Instructor of Business Administration Gies College of Business</i>	IGB 612
Saturday, 4/11/26	Mandatory Capstone Event	Communications Workshop 9 AM – 4 PM	IGB 612

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

*****Please note that the final Capstone training will take place from 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday, 4/11/26.*****