

Course Syllabus – COMM 402

Course Information

Course Number: COMM 402 WI21

Course Name: Effective Career Planning for PhDs

Term: WI 21

Start Date: 01/06/2021

End Date: 02/24/2021

Credits: 1.0

Meeting Days / Times

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00pm PT / 3:00-5:00pm ET

(See Calendar in Canvas for the most up-to-date schedule.)

Location

Online via Zoom

Course Managers

Role	Last Name	First Name	Email
Instructor	Horcasitas	Jeanelle	jhorcasitas@scripps.edu
Instructor	Li	Xinrui	xli@scripps.edu
Instructor	Wheeler	Ryan	rwheeler@scripps.edu

Course Description

The course is intended to encourage proactive career planning by equipping participants with the skills, resources and self-assessment information necessary to make informed career choices both inside and beyond academia. The course emphasizes developing career-related skill sets, including networking, self-evaluation, maintaining a professional presence online, goal setting, and formulating an Individual Development Plan (IDP). Students are required to enroll in this course for credit (graded or pass/fail only).

Class Format

The course will run simultaneously on both campuses with joint participation and instructors on both the CA and FL campuses.

The format will feature group exercises, brainstorming, resource sharing, networking assignments and a career plan poster session. By the end of the course, students will have a

sense of career options that match their values, interests, skills and personality, and well-developed goals.

Program Learning Outcomes

By the end of the program, students will have accomplished these objectives:

PLO1: Original Research – graduate students are expected to develop the skills critical for generating high-quality research output. This would include absorbing, recalling, and contextualizing scientific knowledge, evaluating scientific information and data, creating testable hypotheses and investigating hypotheses, mastering scientific tools and techniques, displaying ethical behavior, and receiving and giving feedback.

PLO2: Communication – graduate students are expected to demonstrate the oral, written, and media skills to effectively communicate the impact of a study or a body of work to the greater scientific community and to the public at large using a number of methods.

PLO3: Critical Thinking – graduate students are expected to develop a self-directed process to analyze information, form opinions or judgments, and use this process to improve the quality of their scientific thoughts, navigate problems, and make informed decisions.

PLO4: Intellectual Curiosity – graduate students are expected to acquire the capacity to build their intellectual curiosity and demonstrate problem solving approaches that serve their professional growth and ability to impact a field.

PLO5: Career and Professional Development – graduate students are expected to develop a variety of transferable skillsets throughout their graduate experience, including management and leadership, inclusiveness, resilience, scientific rigor, collaboration, accountability, time management, teamwork, networking, and career planning.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

CLO1: Create a career plan poster that synthesizes individual self-assessment results with career interests

CLO2: Identify at least two PhD-level careers that complement their self-assessment results

CLO3: Formulate and categorize a list of insightful informational interview questions

CLO4: Articulate and substantiate three career-related SMART goals

Background Preparation (Prerequisites)

The course is recommended for graduate students who are beyond their first year. Please reach out to the course instructors for additional information. Postdocs are welcome to enroll.

Required Course Materials

Required: Freedman (2008). Career Opportunities in Biotechnology and Drug Development. ISBN: 978-0879698805.

Required: Sinche (2016). Next Gen PhD: A Guide to Career Paths in Science. ISBN: 978-0674504653.

Required: Rath (2007). Strengthsfinder 2.0. ISBN: 978-1595620156.

Useful to Consult: Janssen & Server (2014). Career Options for Biomedical Scientists. ISBN: 978-1936113729.

Useful to Consult: Evans, Lundsteen & Vanderford (2017). ReSearch: A Career Guide for Scientists. ISBN: 978-0128042977.

Useful to Consult: Burnett & Evans (2016). Designing Your Life. ISBN: 978-1101875322.

Useful to Consult: Hoffman & Casnocha (2012). The Start-up of You. ISBN: 978-0307888907.

Attendance Statement

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class must seek permission for an excused absence from the course director or teaching assistant. Unapproved absences or late attendance for three or more classes may result in a lower grade or an “incomplete” for the course. If a student has to miss a class, he or she should arrange to get notes from a fellow student and is strongly encouraged to meet with the teaching assistant to obtain the missed material.

Scientific and Professional Ethics

The work you do in this course must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask the course professor who will give you clear guidance. Exams must be completed independently. Any collaboration on answers to exams, unless expressly permitted, may result in an automatic failing grade and possible expulsion from the Graduate Program.

Technology Requirements and Support

For issues related to Canvas, please contact the Graduate Office by email at: gradprgm@scripps.edu or by phone at: 858-784-8469.

Course Grading

Grading is in accordance with the academic policies of the Skaggs Graduate School. The breakdown of grading is as follows:

- Attendance and Participation: 40%
- Assignments and Presentations: 60%

Grade Point	Letter Grade	
4.00	A	Outstanding achievement. Student performance demonstrates full command of the course subject matter and evinces a high level of originality and/or creativity that far surpasses course expectations.
3.67	A-	Excellent achievement. Student performance demonstrates thorough knowledge of the course subject matter and exceeds course expectations by completing all requirements in a superior manner.
3.33	B+	Very good work. Student performance demonstrates above-average comprehension of the course subject matter and exceeds course expectations on all tasks as defined in the course syllabus. There is notable insight and originality.
3.00	B	Satisfactory work. Student performance meets designated course expectations and demonstrates understanding of the course subject matter at an acceptable level.
2.67	B-	Marginal work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete understanding of course subject matter. There is limited perception and originality.
2.33	C+	Unsatisfactory work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete and inadequate understanding of course subject matter. There is severely limited or no perception or originality. Course will not count toward degree.
2.00	C	Unsatisfactory work. Student performance demonstrates incomplete and inadequate understanding of course subject matter. There is severely limited or no perception or originality. Course will not count toward degree.
0.00	I	Incomplete is assigned when work is of passing quality but is incomplete for a pre-approved reason. Once an incomplete grade is assigned, it remains on student's permanent record until a grade is awarded.
0.00	P	Satisfactory work. Student performance demonstrated complete and adequate understanding of course subject matter. Course will count toward degree.
0.00	F	Unacceptable work/Failure. Student performance is unacceptably low level of knowledge and understanding of course subject matter. Course will not count toward degree. Student may continue in program only with permission of the Dean.
0.00	W	Withdrew from the course with Dean's permission beyond the second week of the term.

- All courses will be recorded and maintained in the student's permanent academic record; only courses that apply towards the degree will appear on the academic transcript. Non-credit or audited courses will not appear on the transcript.
- 4 core courses taken for a letter grade (pass = B- or higher for a core course)
- 2 elective courses taken pass/fail (pass = A, B, C for an elective)

Course Schedule:

Date	Details
Wed Jan 6, 2021	Session 1: Introduction, Interests, Values, Risk-taking (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Wed Jan 13, 2021	Session 2: Skills, Imposter Syndrome, Resilience (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Wed Jan 20, 2021	Session 3: StrengthsFinder, Summarizing Self-Assessment Results, and Goal Setting (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Wed Jan 27, 2021	Session 4: Career Panel Discussion (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Wed Feb 3, 2021	Session 5: Job Search Skills (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Mon Feb 8, 2021	PhD Career Presentations
Wed Feb 10, 2021	Session 6: Student mini-presentations about Ph.D. jobs (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Wed Feb 17, 2021	Session 7: Student mini-presentations about Ph.D. jobs (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)
Mon Feb 22, 2021	IDP Poster
Wed Feb 24, 2021	Session 8: Summarizing your progress and plans via an IDP poster (Wheeler, Li, Horcasitas)