**Course Title: Advanced Topics in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics: Grant Writing Basics**

**Course Number: 16:681:601**

**Credits: 1**

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of written qualifying exam**

**Course Location: Research Tower Room 747**

**Course Date & Time: Spring 2022, 10 weeks, 90 min per session**

**Course Instructor: Paul Copeland**

**Professor**

**Department Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

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**Suggested Reading: NIH “**[**Write your application**](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm)**”**

**Suggested Webcontent/Videos:** [**Northwestern’s CLIMB**](https://www.northwestern.edu/climb/resources/written-communication/index.html)

**Course Description:** This course targets 2nd year PhD students who are preparing for their oral qualifying exam, which usually requires the submission of a written proposal that is similar in structure to an NIH grant. The course begins with the big picture of grant submission and review with an emphasis on key writing techniques that enhance clarity. We then move into a detailed iterative process of drafting a specific aims page. Fundamental writing concepts are reinforced during these sessions so that they can then be applied to the rest of the grant application.

this course for other degrees and concentrations.

**Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course students should be able to clearly and concisely propose a new research project.**

**Course Schedule:**

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| **Date** | **Course Topic** | **Assignments** |
| Week 1 | **Lecture:**  Introduction to the Course  Overview of an NIH Grant application  Grantwriting concepts and fundamentals | Complete Experimental Plan Survey |
| Week 2 | **Discussion: Nail down your aims**  Peer and mentor review of experimental plans | Draft the two introductory paragraphs of Specific Aims Page |
| Week 3 | **Discussion:** Feedback on SA page  Everyone reviews everybody | Revisit and revise the two introductory paragraphs of Specific Aims Page  Draft Specific Aims |
| Week 4 | **Discussion:** Feedback  Review SA pages for all students | Revisit and revise the two introductory paragraphs of Specific Aims Page  Revisit and revise Specific Aims |
| Week 5 | **Demo:** Dissecting the Approach Section | Draft one of your aims in full (**figure optional**) |
| Week 6 | **Discussion:** Feedback on Approach | Draft one of your aims in full (**figure required**) |
| Week 7 | **Discussion:** Feedback on Approach | Draft Topic Sentences for Significance |
| Week 8 | **Discussion:** Feedback on Topic Sentences | Draft Significance (figure required) |
| Week 9 | **Discussion:** Feedback on Significance | Put it all together |
| Week 10 | Overflow week |  |