

NSP Graduate Forum Syllabus

Meeting Times/Location:

Selected Tuesdays- 3:30-5:00pm ~ 1-2 sessions per month. (see detailed calendar for schedule 2016-2020)

East Lansing campus: 1425 BPS

Grand Rapids campus: TBD

Details of room and video conferencing of the entire semester will be sent to students before the start of each semester.

Attendance Requirements by session category:

- 1) First Year Crash Course -1st and 2nd year students must attend
- 2) Professional Development / Career Planning - Required once during graduate career, recommended for ≥3rd yrs
- 3) Building Mentorship Skills - Required once during the graduate career, recommended for ≥ 2nd yrs
- 4) Grants – The Basics on NRSA’s, K-awards and R-awards - Required once during the graduate career, recommended for students submitting an NRSA and ≥2nd yrs
- 5) Finishing Grad School and Defending - Required once during graduate career; recommended for ≥ 3 years
- 6) Teaching – How Tos and Practice Talks.
 - a. 2nd years give 20min presentation
 - b. All students are required to attend at least one session each year to give feedback.
- 7) Neuroethics - Required two sessions during graduate career. Open to all student levels
- 8) Upperclassmen Talks (2 sessions) –
 - a. Candidate students (≥ 3yrs) required to give one talk
 - b. All students must attend at least one session each year to give feedback
- 9) Brain Awareness Week Planning – Required at least 2 years participation in East Lansing or Grand rapids recommended every year because they always need more volunteers!
 - a. Students must attend this planning session for every year they participate
 - b. Either EL or GR campus students must get signature from faculty coordinator verifying participation.
- 10) Student Choice – new techniques lecture or professional development - required to attend any 2 sessions during graduate career
- 11) Preparing for Comprehensive Exams
 - a. Required for 2nd years to attend each year
 - b. Student panel requirement: students who have passed comps (recommended 3rd years) must participate once in the panel before graduation

NSP Forum Schedule:

Section offerings:		2016	2017	2017	2018	2018	2019	2019	2020
		Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
1st year crash course		Sep-6		Sep-5		Sep-4		Sep-3	
Building Mentorship Skills (even yrs)		Sep-20				Sep-18			
Professional Development (odd yrs)				Sep-19				Sep-17	
Grants		Oct-4		Oct-3		Oct-2		Oct-1	
Finishing Grad School		Nov-1		Nov-7		Nov-20		Nov-5	
Teaching	session 1	Dec-6		Dec-5		Dec-4		Dec-3	
	session 2	Dec-13		Dec-12		Dec-11		Dec-10	
Neuroethics			Jan-10		Jan-9		Jan-8		Jan-7
Upperclassman talks	session 1		Jan-31		Feb-6		Feb-5		Feb-4
	session 2		Feb-7		Feb-13		Feb-12		Feb-11
Brain Awareness Week	session 1		Feb-28		Mar-6		Mar-5		Mar-3
"Student Choice"	session 2		Mar-28		Mar-27		Mar-26		Mar-24
Preparing for Comps			Apr-11		Apr-10		Apr-9		Apr-7

Fall Semester

September (session 1): First Year Crash Course

Overview: This is a session for new students that offers an introduction to the program and the program requirements. It will feature the Program Director talking about IDPs, a representative from COGS or the Graduate School talking about activities students can get involved in for stress-relief, and a panel of other students to give advice on best times to fulfill NSP requirements, choosing a mentor, earning the teaching certificate, RCR, etc.

Attendance: 1st and 2nd year students must attend

September (session 2)

Professional Development / Career Planning (odd years: 2017, 2019, etc)

Overview: The first half of this forum session will consist of a presentation from someone in MSU Career Services talking about networking, interviewing, helpful CV and resume tips, and other relevant topics. The second half of this forum session will consist of a panel of upper level students who have started their job hunt and postdocs at MSU who will discuss different types of jobs you can apply for, how to find them, when to start applying, and how long the application process can realistically take.

Attendance: Required once during the graduate career. Recommended for 3rd years and above.

Building Mentorship Skills (even years: 2016, 2018, etc)

Overview: This is a session for students to learn how to be effective mentors. This session will include how to give constructive feedback, conflict management, and how to effectively delegate, etc. This session will be led by a PI and possibly input from students who have previously mentored other students successfully.

Attendance: Required once during the graduate career. Recommended for 2nd years and above.

October: Grants – The Basics on NRSA's, K-awards and R-awards

Overview: This is a session to overview what grants are available, the grant review process, basic jargon one will encounter when writing and submitting a grant, and other basics to familiarize students with the grant process from NRSA's to K- and R-awards. This session will be presented by a PI who is well-versed in the grant writing and review process.

Attendance: Required once during the graduate career. recommended for students submitting an NRSA (2nd years and up).

November: Finishing Grad School and Defending – What You Need to Know

Overview: This session will focus on information for students preparing to graduate. There will be a presentation on how to register to walk in graduation, graduation requirements, important dates and deadlines, and other basics on dissertation requirements and writing.

Attendance: Required once during graduate career, preferably after doctoral candidacy.

December: Teaching – How Tos and Practice Talks (1-2 sessions)

Overview: This session will be a combination of the previous "Giving a talk / data presentation" and previous "Teaching" sessions. This session will mainly consist of second year students giving a 20min presentation of their data, followed by 20min of constructive feedback by other students.

Attendance: 2nd years are required to give 20min presentation. If there are more than 3 presenters, the session will be split into two sessions. All students are required to attend each year to give feedback.

Spring Semester

January - Neuroethics

Overview: This session will consist of a presentation by a neuroethics Professor and the topic will switch annually to focus on a different aspect of neuroethics each year. The presentation should be 45 min long, leaving a maximum of 45 min for discussion of the topic and any student questions.

Attendance: Students are required to attend two sessions during their graduate career. Open to all student levels.

February: Upperclassmen Talks (2 sessions)

Overview: This forum session will consist of upperclassmen (4th and 5th year students) giving 15 minute presentations on their research. This forum session will be important for students to learn how to distill a long dissertation into a condensed, short talk.

Attendance: This will be a requirement for students who are between proposing and defending their dissertation. In these years, students will be required to give one talk and attend one other to give feedback.

March (session 1): Brain Awareness Week Planning

Overview: This session is mandatory for students participating in BAW that year. The purpose of this session is to get students signed up for which BAW shift they will work and to teach basics of the BAW demonstrations and lessons. The outreach chair from GSC will lead this session and should come with all the information on what dates need to be filled, and what you will need for BAW school visits.

Attendance: Participation in BAW for two years will be a new requirement for students. As a result, students must attend this session two years (unless students are in Grand Rapids and participating in the GR BAW – if this is the case then student must get signature verifying participation in BAW).

March (session 2): Student Choice – new Techniques lecture or Professional development

Overview: The topic of this session will be determined by student survey/poll during Fall semester cross campus research day. Forum leaders will prepare a list of 4 topic choices. This will allow students involvement in picking a professional development topic of their choosing every year.

Odd years: Topics will focus on new techniques such as optogenetics, viral vectors, or bioinformatics.

Even years Topics on professional development workshops such as: networking how-to's, work-life balance and stress management, etc.

Attendance: required to attend 2 sessions during graduate career.

April: Preparing for Comprehensive Exams

Overview: The first half of this session will be presented by a faculty member who will describe the basic format of the comprehensive exams. The second half of the session will consist of a student panel for personalized advice and experiences on taking comprehensive exams (ideally the panel will consist of students who have passed comps and at least one student who remediated).

Attendance: Required for 2nd years to attend each year. Student panel requirement: students who have passed comps (suggested 3rd years) must participate once in the panel before graduation.