Grant Writing for Health Outcome Studies

GMS 7906
Thursdays 9:35-11:30 am – DSIT 7037
Fall 2025

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COURSE OVERVIEW AND GOAL

This is an applied course focusing on writing grant proposals to the NIH and other funding institutions. The goal of the course is for you to leave with a solid draft of a grant proposal for your dissertation research. We will achieve this outcome through a repeated cycle of *learning, drafting, receiving feedback, and revising* for each component of the grant. I firmly believe that the only way to really learn to write a grant is to write a grant. I want you to leave this course with a clear understanding of the grant writing process, and the confidence to move forward with grant applications.

ASSIGNMENTS AND WEIGHTING

Class Attendance, Preparation and Participation (30%): As with most things in life, you will get out of this course what you put into it. I expect you to come to class each week fully prepared, having done the readings in the syllabus. I expect you to actively participate in class activities, particularly on "workshop" days where we are giving each other feedback. If you do these things, you will get the full 30 points.

Assignments (35%): There are seven specific components of a grant proposal you will need to bring to class on assigned days. Each is worth 5 points. These will not be given letter grades. As long as you submit something substantial for each assignment, you will receive the points.

Final Project (35%): As the final product of the class, you will submit a proposal consisting of: Your biosketch, specific aims and research strategy. You will submit this twice – once by November 13 before the mock study section and once after by having made revisions based on the feedback received in the review and including a revision letter.

Assignments will be graded as follows:

GRADING SCALE

A 93-100%	C 73-76%
A- 90-92%	C- 70-72%
B+ 87-89%	D+ 67-69%
B 83-86%	D 63-66%
B- 80-82%	D- 60-62%
C+ 77-79%	Failure 0-59%

COURSE MATERIALS

All course materials will be posted to the Canvas site.

OTHER INFORMATION

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/

This course is in person, unless noted otherwise. Occasional exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Please contact me at least one business day in advance of class (unless an emergency) if you have an extenuating circumstance that prohibits you from being able to attend class in person on a given date.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Classroom Culture

I consider this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect and welcome individuals of all backgrounds. All members of this class are expected to contribute to a respectful environment for every other member of the class.

Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors.

In-Class Recording Policy

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

ChatGPT

The use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Dall-e, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities: 1) Brainstorming ideas for grant proposals; 2) checking grammar and spelling. The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for writing any portion of your proposal.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Due
1 – 8/21	Introduction to Course Overview of NIH Grant Types & Review Criteria Assign Elevator Speech	
2 – 8/28	F30 experience: Miranda Reid R03 experience: Carma Bylund/Jordan Alpert Elevator speeches Resources for finding funding opportunities	Review F30 and R03 examples Elevator Speech
Specific Aims		
3 – 9/4	Specific Aims	Review Specific Aims in Canvas
4 – 9/11	Specific Aims	#1: Spec Aims: Problem-Gap-Hook-Solution
5 – 9/18	Asynchronous Feedback Workshop: Specific Aims	#2: Specific Aims Draft
Significance & Innovation		
6 – 9/25	Significance & Innovation	Review Significance & Innovation Examples in Canvas
7 – 10/2	Feedback Workshop: Significance & Innovation Outline	#3 Significance & Innovation Outline
8 – 10/9	Asynchronous Feedback Workshop: Significance & Innovation	#4 Significance and Innovation Draft
Approach, Biosketch, Training Plans, and Introduction		
9 – 10/16	Asynchronous activities Approach	Review Approach sections in Canvas
10 – 10/23	Biosketch Training Plans Feedback Workshop: Approach Outline	Review Biosketches and Training Plans in Canvas #5 Approach Outline
11 – 10/30	Submitting a Revision and Writing an Introduction Feedback Workshop: Biosketch	#6 Biosketch
12 – 11/6	Asynchronous Feedback Workshop: Approach Draft	#7 Approach Draft
Budgets and Other Grant Forms		
13 – 11/13	Budgets & other grant forms Mock Grant Reviews	Mock Grant Review Materials Specific Aims (1 pg) + Research Strategy (6 pgs) + Biosketch
14 – 11/20	Mock Grant Review	
15 – 11/27	No class - Thanksgiving	

Final Grant Proposal + Introduction (Revision) Due no later than Wednesday, December 10.