

Grant Writing Seminar 2026

BOT 6935 course# 15380 or ZOO 6927 course# 15386

Monday, 6th and 7th periods

Room: Carr 222

Instructor: Rebecca Kimball

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352-846-3737

Office Hours: By Appt.

Objectives

The goal is to make students comfortable in writing and submitting grants, to understand all aspects of the process (finding grants to apply for, dealing with budgets, other documents that might be required, understanding various ways grant decisions are made, etc.).

Students write three different types of grants (a short, Sigma Xi style grant, a moderate-sized grant of the students choosing, and a longer NSF-style grant). Students are encouraged to write grants related to their research interests, whether they are still identifying specific questions for their research (e.g., using these grants to better assess feasibility of some ideas) or if ideas have been solidified, the grants can be used to further develop ideas or refine methods – or to work well-developed ideas into submittable grants (depending on submission dates, some students do submit grants for funding during the semester, and others often modify these grants to submit for later deadlines).

The class periods are focused on discussion, including topics such as scientific writing, going over different ways of organizing grants and developing the structure to maximize the take home message and fundability of grants. Since one grant is for an organization of the students choosing, identifying appropriate grants (including links to various resources) is given. Budget terminology (e.g., IDC, F&A, cost-sharing, etc.) are covered, as are topics such as broader impacts. An emphasis is also put on feedback, primarily through peer review, providing students with feedback on their grants, but also exposure to different ways to write a grant. The course is geared at early career graduate students, either MS or PhD, though students farther along are welcome to participate. The class is open to students of any department, though the focus will be on grants in the biological sciences.

Grading:

Students are expected to attend the course each week, come prepared, and participate in discussions. Grades will be based on completion of a short (500 word) Sigma Xi-style grant (15%), reviews of Sigma Xi grants (10%), completion of a mid-sized grant (15%), reviews of mid-sized grants (10%), completion of a longer (e.g. 8 page) NSF-formatted grant, including many of the NSF additional documents (25%), reviews of the longer grants (10%). The remaining 15% is based on participation in course activities, including being prepared for class discussions, sharing ideas, and participating in the mock grant panel.

Students will be allowed to miss one class, but must make arrangements with the instructor if more than one class will be missed.

No textbooks are required for this course. Information on readings (when required) will be posted on the class e-learning site.

Planned schedule

(any modifications, readings, and details of all class assignments, will be on the class canvas site)

Jan 12	Course info, Grant tips, Finding funding
Jan 19	HOLIDAY – NO CLASS
Jan 26	Framing a proposal, Writing tips
Feb 2	Comparing impressions of grants
Feb 9	Reviewing grants
Feb 16	How to write longer (vs shorter) grants?
Feb 23	Grant requirements – how they vary
Mar 2	Budgets
Mar 9	Broader impacts
Mar 16	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Mar 23	Idea Exchange – getting feedback
Mar 30	Project summaries, preproposals, etc.
Apr 6	Work on grants – last minute questions
Apr 13	How might decisions be made?
Apr 20	Mock NSF-style grant panel

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please click on [this link](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/) (or go to: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>)