

Effective Oral Communication Methods

Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 PM

September 2-23, 2015

Course Director: Bruce Damon, PhD, Associate Professor of Radiology and Radiological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, and Molecular Physiology and Biophysics; Director of Graduate Studies for the Chemical and Physical Biology Program

Course Description: This course will provide basic instruction, practical experiences, and critical but supportive feedback in techniques for the oral presentation of scientific matter.

Learning Objectives: The course will provide instruction in the development of projected visual aids (slide development, presentation organization, etc.) and in techniques for effective oral communication (pace, articulation, managing stress, etc.). The focus will be placed on developing 10 minute, conference-style presentations.

Students will gain practical experience giving 10-minute talks. Students will peer-evaluate each other and receive faculty feedback. In these class sessions, we will break into multiple small groups of 6-8 students to enhance opportunities for feedback.

Additional instruction and practice will be provided giving 3-minute, informal presentations of research suitable for a non-expert audience. Dr. Gary Jaeger (Assistant Director of the Vanderbilt Writing Studio) will provide a general introduction to conveying complex research to non-specialists. Students will give their 3-minute presentation to peers, then faculty feedback, respectively, again using the small group format for these class sessions.