

MCB4090 Careers for Impact in Microbiology and Cell Science

Spring 2026

Online Asynchronous 1 Credit, Co-taught Undergraduate/Graduate

Instructor

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Office hours: Appointments available upon request. Recurring dates/times set through student poll.

Course Description

Prepares students with connections into a variety of Microbiology and Cell Science careers. Essential networking and communication skills will be honed through practical application exercises. A portfolio will be created to identify and obtain suitable experiential learning and career opportunities.

Course Learning Objectives

After this course, the student will be able to:

- Assess life science-related career options and envision experiential learning and career progression through interviews of professionals in a variety of life science-related careers
- Build a network through peer and professional interactions
- Compose documents to communicate their strengths and impacts to pursue career-building opportunities including internships and jobs to match their skills and interests
- Practice and articulate advancement in NACE Career Readiness competencies

Course Prerequisites

Undergraduates must have completed their Career Readiness check-ins through the UF Career Connections Center.

Textbooks, Learning Materials, and Supply Fees

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Optional purchase of work style assessments such as CliftonStrengths, DiSC, and Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Alternatives of free CHOMP UF C3 or 16 Personalities.

Technical Skills

A basic understanding of operating a computer and using word processing software is required, along with access and application of the Canvas learning platform.

Technical Support

UF Computing Help Desk & Ticket Number: All technical issues require a UF Helpdesk Ticket Number.

The UF Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> | 352-392-4357

The Help Desk suggests that if you encounter any problem (error messages, etc.) you take a screen shot of the problem and save it to help them fix your problem.

Weekly Course Schedule

Module	Dates	Topic	Assessment	Due Dates
0	Jan. 12-14	Orientation	Syllabus	Jan. 14
1	Jan. 15-21	Objectives	SMART Objective & NACE Competencies	Jan. 21
2	Jan. 22-28	Professional Introductions & Peer Networking	Professional Bio- Initial Post - Peer Responses	Jan. 28 Feb. 4
3	Jan. 29-Feb. 4	Career Speakers #1 & #2	Career Speaker Reflections #1 & #2	Feb. 4
4	Feb. 5-11	Resume / CV Preparation	Draft CV / Resume	Feb. 11
5	Feb. 12-18	Career Speakers #3 & #4	Career Speaker Reflections #3 & #4	Feb. 18
6	Feb. 19-25	LinkedIn	LinkedIn Profile- Initial Post - Peer Review	Feb. 25 Mar. 4
7	Feb. 26-Mar. 4	Job / Opportunity Search	Opportunity Sharing	Mar. 4
8	Mar. 5-11	Application Essentials	Tailored Application Package	Mar. 11
9	Mar. 12-25	Career Speakers #6 & #7	Career Speaker Reflections #5 & #6	Mar. 25
	Mar. 14-21	Spring Break		
10	Mar. 26-Apr. 1	Interviewing	Mock Interview	Apr. 1
11	Apr. 2-8	Professional Networking	Professional Networking Contacts	Apr. 8
12	Apr. 9-15	Career Development & Balance	Career Map	Apr. 15
13	Apr. 16-22	Leadership & Teamwork	Work Styles Reflection	Apr. 22

Grading Policy

Course grading is consistent with [UF grading policies](#).

The instructor will make every effort to have each assignment graded and posted within one week of the due date. Discussion boards will not be graded until the end of the discussion period to encourage ongoing engagement and may not be submitted after the discussion period has closed.

Excused assignment extensions must be consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation. Assignments will receive a deduction of 10% per week overdue (not prorated per day/hour). Discussion board interactions deadlines may not be extended.

Course Grading Structure

Assignment Type	Point Value	Percent of Final Grade
Career Exploration	30	30%
Networking	25	25%
Professional Communication	30	30%
Career & Self-Discovery	15	15%
Extra Credit	+5	+5%

Grading Scale

Grade	Points	Percentage
A	94.0 to 100	94.0% to 100%
A-	90.0 to <94.0	90.0% to <94.0%
B+	87.0 to <90.0	87.0% to <90.0%
B	84.0 to <87.0	84.0% to <87.0%
B-	80.0 to <84.0	80.0% to <84.0%
C+	77.0 to <80.0	77.0% to <80.0%
C	74.0 to <77.0	74.0% to <77.0%
C-	70.0 to <74.0	70.0% to <74.0%
D+	67.0 to <70.0	67.0% to <70.0%
D	64.0 to <67.0	64.0% to <67.0%
D-	60.0 to <64.0	60.0% to <64.0%
E	0 to <60.0	0% to <60.0%

Academic Policies and Resources

Academic policies for this course are consistent with university policies. See

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Campus Health and Wellness Resources

Visit <https://one.uf.edu/whole-gator/topics> for resources that are designed to help you thrive physically, mentally, and emotionally at UF.

Please contact [UMatterWeCare](#) for additional and immediate support.

Software Use

All faculty, staff and students of the university are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against university policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

Privacy and Accessibility Policies

- Instructure (Canvas): [Instructure Privacy Policy](#) and [Instructure Accessibility](#)
- Zoom: [Zoom Privacy Policy](#) and [Zoom Accessibility](#)
- Vimeo: [Vimeo Privacy Policy](#) and [Vimeo Accessibility](#)
- Sonic Foundry (Mediasite): [Mediasite Privacy Policy](#) and [Mediasite Accessibility](#)
- YouTube: [YouTube Privacy Policy](#) and [YouTube Accessibility](#)

Additional Information

Netiquette and Communication Courtesy

It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette. Disrespectful interactions will not be tolerated. Additional guidelines are included on the Canvas site

Appropriate Use of Artificial Intelligence

Students are encouraged to explore and utilize a variety of AI tools and libraries to enhance their understanding and practical skills. Students should consider the potential biases and implications of AI and make efforts to mitigate any discriminatory or harmful effects. When using AI tools, students should ensure that they comply with the respective licenses and terms of use set by the tool developers. Students should properly attribute any code or resources used from external sources, including AI libraries, frameworks, or pre-trained models.

In this course, AI-generated work may be used collaboratively and must be clearly acknowledged. AI programs are not a replacement for human creativity and critical thinking. It is the student's responsibility to review and ensure the appropriateness and accuracy of assignment submissions. Failure to cite and correctly edit work will result in a reduced grade and could be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution in consistent or severe cases.

Tips for Success in this Course

Here are some tips to get the most of this course while taking full advantage of the online format:

- Schedule "class times" for yourself. It is important to do the coursework on time each week. You will receive a reduction in points for work that is submitted late.
- Read the materials on Canvas carefully. There is helpful information that can save you time and help you meet the objectives of the course.
- Check off the items in the course summary located in the course syllabus as you progress.
- Take full advantage of the online discussion boards. Ask for help or clarification if you need it.
- Do not wait to ask questions! Waiting to ask a question might cause you to miss a due date.
- Do your work well before the due dates. Sometimes things happen. If your computer goes down when you are trying to submit an assignment, you will need time to troubleshoot the problem.
- To be extra safe, back up your work to an external hard drive, thumb drive, or through a cloud service.