

Science Policy & Advocacy Fundamentals

A course to prepare students in learning basic skills and concepts in science policy and advocacy, as well as identify concrete ways to transition into careers in these areas. Among the goals of the course is to showcase the value of science communication for STEM scientists in promoting effective policy change. Modules include research and education policy, policy writing and elevator pitching sessions, effective engagement with legislators through power mapping exercises, federal and state policy fellowships, leveraging policy for industry careers, and opportunities for local policy engagement.

- **Goals & Mission Statement:**
 - Scientists must play a significant role in the post-COVID-19 recovery process by educating policymakers and the public on the importance of evidence-based research
 - Focus on learning basic skills and concepts, as well as identifying concrete ways to transition into careers in these areas
 - Showcase the value of science communication for STEM scientists in promoting effective policy change
- **Format:**
 - Incorporate lectures on various topics in science policy and advocacy, workshops for developing communication skills, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities to sharpen skills in these fields
- **Course level:**
 - PhD students and postdocs in life sciences and humanities disciplines
 - Emphasis on under-represented minorities (e.g. target MSIs)
- **Required Core Competencies:**
 - Interest in science policy
 - Students enrolled in PhD programs, also can be extended to undergraduates
- **Modules:**
 - Introduction to Science Policy & Advocacy
 - Scientific Research Policy & Education Policy
 - Writing Effective Science Policy Pieces
 - Advocacy Strategies to Engage Policymakers
 - Federal & State Science Policy Fellowships (e.g. AAAS STPF, CCST, Mirzayan, Research! America)
 - Targeted Communication Using Power Mapping
 - Elevator Pitching on Research Topics
 - Leveraging Policy for Industry Careers
 - Science Policy & Advocacy at the Local Level
 - Science Policy & Advocacy in Action (pitch to legislators in breakout rooms)
- **Activities & outcomes:**
 - Elevator pitching (video)
 - Writing (memo, op-ed)
 - Talking points for advocacy
 - Power mapping plan
 - Public engagement project
- **Other outcomes:**
 - Informational interviews

- Podcast interviews + networking (LinkedIn group)
 - Course videos (YouTube channel) as a resource
- Evaluation:
 - Survey to assess satisfaction with the course and different types of knowledge