

DBBS/OPA Career & Professional Development Opportunities

Career-preparation resources are available at Washington University to DBBS graduate students and STEM postdocs in the form of workshops, student groups, supplemental credentials, and university events. DBBS and the Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) co-sponsor weekly seminars that apply to a broad range of professions. Career talks by alumni and other Ph.D. professionals demonstrate the variety of academic and non-academic careers available to biomedical Ph.D.s. Each fall, the Faculty Career Search Series explains the academic hiring process. Student groups provide hands-on experience in consulting, entrepreneurship, teaching, science advocacy, and science communications. Additional student governance and mentoring organizations provide opportunities to develop leadership skills. Graduate students and postdocs have access to The Career Center, which hosts workshops on job search skills and offers individual career advising with a dedicated career strategist throughout the year. For students and postdocs interested in entrepreneurship or teaching, the Skandalaris Center and the Teaching Center offer earned credentials in their respective areas.

DBBS/OPA Workshops

Professional Development Seminars:

- Presentation Skills
- Interpersonal Communication
- Leadership & Managing People
- Individual Development Plan (IDP) Workshops
- How to Find Funding
- Fellowship Writing Workshops
- Preparing For Your Postdoc

Non-Academic Career Talks:

- Biomedical Industry Careers
- Entrepreneurship
- Science Policy
- Science Communications
- University Administration
- Teaching Careers
- Consulting Careers

Faculty Career Search Series:

- Writing a Teaching Philosophy Statement
- Diversity Statements
- Faculty Career Hiring Panel
- The Chalk Talk
- Lab Set-Up
- Lab Finances

Career-Focused Student Groups

[The Biotechnology & Life Science Advising Group \(BALSA\)](#) – Student-run nonprofit consulting firm serving small startups to Fortune 500 companies

[IDEA Labs](#) – Student-run biotechnology incubator developing innovative solutions to clinical problems

[Bioentrepreneurship Core](#) – Multidisciplinary group organizing events on biotechnology-based entrepreneurial opportunities

[Promoting Science Policy, Education, and Research \(ProSPER\)](#) – Student group promoting science advocacy and science literacy in policy-making

[Young Scientist Program \(YSP\)](#) – Graduate student volunteers teaching and mentoring high school students

[Future Educators](#) – Student group meeting to discuss teaching and mentoring in a research-based setting

[Association for Women in Science \(AWIS\)](#) – Regional chapter providing mentoring and networking resources for women in scientific careers

A complete list of student groups is available [here](#).

University Resources

[The Career Center:](#)

- Creating CVs, Resumes, and Cover Letters
- Networking Strategies
- Interviewing and Negotiating Job Offers
- Career Planning and Coaching
- Career Fairs

Skandalaris Center for Interdisciplinary Innovation and Entrepreneurship:

- Entrepreneurship Workshops
- [IdeaBounce®](#) – Idea-pitching competition for funding and mentoring opportunities
- [Entrepreneurship Citation](#) – Professional development credential earned via entrepreneurship training and experience

[The Teaching Center:](#)

- **Preparation in Pedagogy** – Formalized pedagogy training
- **Teaching Citation** – Professional development credential earned via teaching experience and advanced pedagogy workshops
- **WU Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL)** – Evidence-based pedagogy training for STEM disciplines