

BILD 84R Career Exploration in Biological Sciences
Fall 2023 Syllabus

Instructor: Joe Pogliano (he/him), jpogliano@ucsd.edu **Modality:** Synchronous remote; attendance required; cameras required to be on
Staff: Melissa Hoon (she/her), mhoon@ucsd.edu **Course units:** 2.0 units
Communication: Please contact instructor and staff via Canvas, not email **Grading system:** Letter grade, P/NP or S/U
Class time: Tuesdays at 1:00-2:50 p.m. **Office hours:** By appointment

Course Description

The goal of this course is to expose students to the many types of careers available across the life sciences and healthcare industries with any academic degree or major. The course will focus on diverse career topics outlined below. Students will engage with industry and healthcare leaders in these areas through class discussions, and will read and discuss articles on these career pathways. At the beginning of this course, students will take a survey about their current career goals. At the end of the course, students will take another survey about their career goals and whether material introduced during this course influenced those goals.

Course Topics

- Academic research
- Aquatic biology and wildlife conservation
- Entrepreneurship and startups
- Global health
- Medical school
- Medicine and surgery
- Nature conservancy
- Paleontology
- Physical therapy
- Product management
- Pursuing an M.D./PhD
- Reasons to get a master's or PhD
- Research in the biotech industry
- Sales in life sciences/biotech
- Science communication
- Science policy
- Sports psychology
- Sustainability and sustainable products
- Teaching professorship
- Toxicology
- Venture capital
- Veterinary school

Course Philosophy and Environment

We'll work together to create an equitable and inclusive environment of mutual respect where we all feel comfortable to ask questions, challenge our understanding, and share moments of confusion, reflection, and growth. All students should be able to succeed in this course. If you feel that this is not the case for you, please let us know.

Accommodations

If you need accommodations for this course due to a disability, please contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at osd@ucsd.edu for an Authorization for Accommodation letter. Please speak with us in the first week of class if you intend to apply for accommodations or have existing accommodations. For more information, visit disabilities.ucsd.edu.

Subject to Change Policy

Changes to this syllabus might be made during the quarter to enhance student learning. If changes are made, they will be reflected on the syllabus and Canvas.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Academic Integrity

This course is designed for your personal and professional growth. You won't benefit if others do your work in any way. All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. It is your responsibility to know what constitutes academic misconduct at UC San Diego. Please review UC San Diego's definition of academic misconduct and policy on the Integrity of Scholarship: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. Use this link to report cheating if you become aware of it.

Letter of Recommendation Policy

We are open to writing letters of recommendation. Please make your request at least two weeks in advance and provide your resume, your qualities you'd like to be reflected in the letter, and a link to the program you're applying to or job description. In order for either of us to write a letter of recommendation, we'll need to be able to write in-depth about your academic, personal and professional qualities that we've observed. This means you must consistently demonstrate these qualities in class and outside of class.

Technology Policy

Students are not permitted to use websites other than Zoom and Canvas during class or use mobile phones in class, except for in the case of an emergency or if they are using their phone to access Zoom.

Campus Policies

- [UC San Diego Principles of Community](#)
- [UC San Diego Policy on Integrity of Scholarship](#)
- [Religious Accommodation](#)
- [Nondiscrimination and Harassment](#)
- [Student Accountability, Growth and Education \(SAGE\)](#) / Student conduct policies

Career Development Resources

1. UC San Diego School of Biological Sciences [Co-Op Program website](#) where Co-Op positions are posted. The duration of these positions is generally 6-12 months.
2. [Research labs at UC San Diego School of Medicine](#) and research labs at [UC San Diego School of Biological Sciences](#)
3. [UC San Diego Career Center](#) for professional development events and programs, and career coaching (schedule an appointment through Handshake).
4. Students can take a [CliftonStrengths Assessment](#) and use their UC San Diego email address for a discount (total cost is approximately \$11; \$20 or \$60 without discount).
5. [Handshake](#) for job and internship postings, and professional development events and programs.
6. [LinkedIn](#) for job and internship postings, networking, and professional development events.

7. [UC San Diego School of Biological Sciences virtual background](#) to use for remote classes, academic and professional Zoom meetings, and general remote professional occasions.

Course Assessment

Your active participation, attendance and punctuality is crucial for your success in this course because it is designed to facilitate your personal growth and professional development, which cannot be achieved without you sharing your thoughts and asking questions in class. Your grade consists of your attendance, participation, weekly assignments and final.

A Typical Week In this Course

- Prior to attending class each week, review the guest speaker/s on LinkedIn and the topic and come prepared to class with questions to ask guest speakers. Please come up with new questions each week that are unique to the guest speaker and topic.
- You'll read at least one article each week and submit a written reflection on it, due each Sunday by 11:59 p.m.
- This is the structure for classes:
 - **Cameras are required to be on** to encourage compelling interactions and discussions. Every class is an opportunity to expand your network. The only way a guest speaker can remember you is if you have your camera on and are engaging in discussion.
 - First 15 minutes: Discuss the prior week's reading and students will share their thoughts.
 - The next hour: Guest speaker/s will give a presentation on their career path and their current professional field and will lead a discussion on these topics.
 - Last 15 minutes: We will review the upcoming assignment for the week.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments, no matter how late, are eligible for no more than half credit. If a circumstance such as illness arises that prevents you from submitting an assignment on time, send Melissa a message on Canvas with an explanation and documentation of your circumstance and she and Joe will determine if you are eligible to submit the assignment late for up to full credit.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites.

Required Digital Textbook

The required text for this class is the Veloxsci digital textbook: BILD 84R Career Exploration (\$15). Purchase your Veloxsci textbook here: veloxsci.com/texts/HG07AT33-1695826-1-linked. If you do not yet have a Veloxsci account, you will be prompted to make an account and then directed to the page where your purchase can be made.

Alternatively, you can do the following:

1. After signing up for a Veloxsci student account, navigate to the "Find a Text" tab.
2. Here, the easiest way to find the correct text is to copy & paste the following code into the "Text ID" box: HG07AT33-1695826-1-linked
3. Click "Fetch!"

4. Click “Purchase This Text,” and complete the payment form.
5. The text can then be accessed by navigating to the “My Texts” page.

Course Requirements

1. **Cameras are required to be on** to encourage compelling interactions and discussions. Every class is an opportunity to expand your network. The only way a guest speaker can remember you is if you have your camera on and are engaging in discussion.
2. **Attendance is required.** Classes are not recorded and cannot be viewed if you miss class. Attendance and participation is one quarter of your grade in this class.
3. **Participate in class discussions** by speaking out loud and through the chat. Attendance and participation is one quarter of your grade in this class.
4. **Come to class with questions to ask guest speakers.** Prior to each class, look up the class topic and guest speaker/s on LinkedIn to come up with your questions. Please come up with new questions each week that are unique to the guest speaker and topic.

Recommendations

1. Write each guest speaker a thank you note via LinkedIn or via email if you have their email address. You’ll receive extra credit for this.
2. Wear [business casual or business professional attire](#) during class to “dress for success” to make a strong and positive first impression with guest speakers.
3. Use a [UC San Diego virtual background](#) during class.

Course Outline and Assignments

Assignment	Weight	Points
Participation and attendance (20 points each class)	40%	200
Weekly reading reflections and surveys (20 points each)	40%	200
Final: Career Plan and Reflection	20%	100

Assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. the first Sunday after they are assigned, unless otherwise noted.

Class	Discussion Topic	Assignment	Points	Due
Week 1 10/3/23	Syllabus overview and why the life sciences industry is an exciting and dynamic field to pursue a career in	Read this article and submit a written reflection and survey: Chapter 1: Sports Psychologist by Dr. Robert Nideffer	20	10/8/23
Week 2 10/10/23	Reasons to get a master’s or PhD (or not) and what grad school is like	Read these articles and submit written reflections and surveys:	20	10/15/23

