

MBRS-RISE & MARC-U*STAR

Research Career Development, Personal Strengths, and Ethics

Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Gail P. Taylor
University of Texas at San Antonio



Introduction

What are you going to do with your undergraduate Science or Engineering degree? These words are more frightening to some than others. Some people have known from an early age that they want a particular profession or job and work to successfully reach it. Others started out with a goal, but, to their amazement (or horror), realize as they mature that the goal was never really theirs and that they need to find a new path. Yet others arrive at college with little thought beyond completing a degree. If these latter two groups set out to actively explore the career possibilities, it's likely that they will find a career path that lights a fire in them and experience that will help them to land their first job. Those who never explore or think of their future direction often fail to complete a degree at all, or may graduate without additional credentials/experience that would open doors into a successful career.

The UTSA MBRS-RISE and MARC-U*STAR training programs were designed to provide undergraduate students, particularly those from a "disadvantaged," backgrounds, with critical research experience

required for successful transition to doctoral level education. However, we also believe in a more comprehensive education for our students. It has been said that Knowledge is Power...and our goal is to empower our students, providing information that helps them to proceed with confidence along a educational and career road that is unfamiliar to most of them and their families. Upper division undergraduates and MS students who are planning on entering doctoral programs must have a working knowledge of what they are getting themselves into, an understanding of how to succeed once there, and the motivation required to make it through the tough and frustrating times that inevitably arise.

To assist our students in their path to a career in research, we have created several courses, including this Research Career Development course, for which a student can earn credit. While our Colloquium courses (BIO 4972) focus on specific tasks and skills, the Careers course (BIO 4953- Research Careers Development) emphasizes knowledge of the career path, as well as personal and ethical development. The course features lectures, discussions, and hands-on exercises. In addition, we have created a workbook to accompany the Careers course, containing a series of exercises and online links designed to guide our students through the discovery process. Final workbook pages and course PowerPoints/Notes will be compiled into a single notebook that can be used as a resource for years to come.

We happily solicit feedback from our students, to assist in refining this comprehensive and valuable workbook.

G.P. Taylor, Ph.D.

Research Careers and Development – Spring 2008

Instructor:

Name:	Office:	Email	Phone:	Office Hours
Dr. Gail P. Taylor	BSE 1.614	gail.taylor@utsa.edu	x5761	drop in; T 2:00 - 3:00

Textbooks:

Careers in Science and Engineering: A Student Planning Guide to Grad School and Beyond.

National Academy Press:

PDF Chapters: <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309053935/html>

html version: <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/careers/>

StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career, and Beyond. The Gallup Organization. <https://www.strengthsquest.com/Content/?ci=23734>

On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct in Research, Second Edition (1995)

PDF chapters: <http://books.nap.edu/books/0309051967/html/index.html>

html version: <http://www.nap.edu/readingroom/books/obas/index.html>

Prerequisites:

Member MBRS-RISE, MARC-U*STAR, or student interested in a career in research

Course Objective/Content:

- Learn about personal attributes and strengths
- Evaluate your personal priorities
- Learn about career paths/options
- Evaluate your compatibility with various careers
- Learn how to plan for a successful career

Learn where to find information about careers
Understand critical scientific integrity issues

Grading Policy:

Late assignments will be docked 5% of their value per day.

Attendance (20%)[§]
Workbooks and Assignments (60%)*
Ethics Discussions and Exam (10%)
Final Examination and Notebook (10%) – TIMED, but open notes.

[§]If you are over 20 minutes late to the class, you will be counted as absent.

* On Workbook assignments, if sufficient effort is observed, they may be turned in a second time is reached, as long as the final examination has not already happened.

Absences:

Please do not miss this class. Many discussions and exercises take place during the class and you will miss out on vital information. However, if you have graduate school interviews, military obligations, a scientific conference, or are horribly germ-spreading ill (talk to me by email or phone in this case), please contact me BEFORE CLASS and I will excuse up to two absences. Be aware that following an excused absence, you are still responsible for getting and completing any missed assignments. Since this is a once-per-week course, please try not to schedule Dr's Appts during this class!

Final Exam:

Thursday, Dec 6, 1:30 – 4:00.

In Techlab, take WebCT quiz plus show Dr. Taylor your completed notebook (Syllabus, Workbooks, PowerPoints, WebCT quiz printouts, other corrected assignments).

Grading:

Final grades will be calculated in percentages.

90 – 100%	A
80 – 89%	B
70 – 79%	C
60 – 70%	D
Below:	F

Be Polite:

- Cell phones must be off, unless a life threatening emergency exists- in this case use vibrate. Do NOT talk on a phone in my class
- Do NOT talk during class, unless it's during a class discussion
- Do not routinely be late to my class. If you MUST be late, please enter quietly and sit in the back.

Honor Code:

Each student is expected to complete his or her own work. Even when working as a group, individual assignments should be completed by you alone and should represent your own final thoughts. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

Evolving Syllabus:

Due to circumstances beyond the instructor's control, the schedule, below, may evolve during the course of the class. Notice will be posted on WebCT. No additional major assignments will be given.