

# SCIENCE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION WORKSHOP

## Contact info

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Office Hours:

M 2:30 pm - 4 pm

T 9:30 am - 10 am, 4 - 5 pm

W 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

R 10 am - 11 am, 1 pm - 2 pm

F 4 -5 pm

## Course Details

Time 3 -4 pm F

Room Julian 307

This workshop is open to students interested in applying for nationally competitive science fellowships and scholarships such as the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. It may also be useful to those interested in crafting essays needed for summer research applications or graduate school in the sciences. We will focus on writing multiple drafts of personal statements and scientific research proposals required for these competitions. Each week, students will prepare short essays in response application prompts. Students will read examples of strong essays, workshop essay drafts in class, revise these drafts, and work one-on-one with consultants in the W Center. The final product for the class will be a portfolio of well-revised application essays, including a personal statement and research proposal that may have a variety of uses as a student gets ready to consider their next steps after DePauw. The course will meet for one hour per week until the end of October (the NSF deadline), and perhaps longer if people would like to continue to tweak their writing for graduate school or internship applications.

### Website

The course outline and homework assignments are posted on the course website, which is accessible at the following web address.

<http://thecreativechemist.org/univ-325-science-fellowship-application-workshop/>

## Goals

In this Fellowship Writing Workshop, we will

1. Read model essays from former DePauw students who were successful in earning NSF Fellowships or honorable mentions.
2. Update resume and reflect on experiences that make us exceptional and interesting.
3. Talk to recommendation writers about the NSF fellowship and later share your essays with them for feedback.
4. Generate several ideas for research proposals, research the topic and write a compelling research proposal with clear background materials, a well-developed plan of experiments, and contingency and future work ideas. This proposal will include references and diagrams.
5. Summarize past research in a way that is readable by a non-expert and makes good use of visuals.
6. Write a compelling personal statement that incorporates extracurricular achievements and past research that meets the NSF Broader Impact criteria.
7. Do multiple revisions of essays to get them to a submission-worthy state!

## Requirements

This writing workshop will be graded Pass/Fail only. To earn a Pass, here is what you need to do:

- Attend weekly class meeting, arriving right on time. No absences.
- Exchange essay drafts with classmates inside and outside of class; serve as a conscientious peer reviewer.
- Discuss drafts with a W Center Consultant and a faculty member in your field of study at least once.
- Submit your polished application essays at the end of October

In order to be competitive for a nationally competitive fellowship, you will need to spend considerable time on your application essays outside of class. Our course organizes these tasks and will help you to budget your time and ensure that you get good feedback from faculty, peers and the W Center tutors. All of the past NSF Graduate Research Fellowship winners have sought extensive feedback on their essays and sometimes even started essays over again from scratch!

You are not in this class to earn an A (which is impossible in any case, since it's a Pass/Fail class), but to write the most beautiful, persuasive set of essays that you possibly can write. This writing is good practice. Although some of you may not win an award this time around, this experience will help polish your writing for graduate school essays and future fellowship applications (a second try on NSF or other opportunities). Your personal statement and research essays will give you good starting points for graduate school applications, too.

I will give you advice, show you models, and ask questions to refine and improve your essays. You will also seek advice from your peers in this class and your faculty members.