

Office of Professional Studies and Experiential Learning

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| Website: | https://www.uab.edu/graduate/students/current-students/career-development/opsel |

OPSEL Information

OPSEL courses, seminars and workshops are offered to improve the academic and professional communication skills of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and staff with the goals of supporting scholarship, research integrity, productivity, effective communication, mentoring and leadership, college teaching, and the development and refinement of professional skills.

Those interested in pursuing the Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS) degree (MA or MS) will find information about the program and how to apply on the IGS webpage at: [Master of Arts and Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies - Graduate School | UAB](#)

Similarly, individuals interested in pursuing any of the following graduate-level certificates through OPSEL will find more information about the programs and how to apply at: [Office of Professional Studies and Experiential Learning - Graduate School | UAB](#)

Upon completion, graduate certificates earned through OPSEL will appear on official UAB transcripts. For more information regarding the course requirements click on the hyperlinks below.

[Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies – MS and MA degrees available](#)

UAB offers two master's degrees in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (IGS): The Master of Arts and the Master of Science. Both IGS degrees are designed to provide students with opportunities to blend two areas of expertise in order to best meet the needs of contemporary hybrid careers. The IGS degree allows students to personalize a master's degree to align with their professional, academic, and personal goals. Students may choose to combine any two (2) UAB graduate certificates that have affiliated with the IGS program in order to gain knowledge and skills they want as they seek professional advancement or personal development.

[Academic Advising - Certificate available](#)

The graduate certificate in Academic Advising (**AADV**) is designed to provide current and prospective academic advisors with opportunities to gain knowledge, skills, and competencies required to advance their academic advising practices in manners that best support students in their academic success and persistence towards degree completion. Scholars who complete the Academic Advising graduate certificate will display their knowledge of and ability to apply desirable competencies within, yet not limited to, individual advising and academic support sessions and group advising sessions as well as environments associated with appreciative admissions, orientation, academic transitions, major discoveries, and career preparations. Courses in the

AADV graduate certificate program are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporating into the IGS degree. The program is also available as a track in the Master of Science in Higher Education Administration.

[Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Advocacy - Certificate available \(email: DiversityEd@uab.edu \(inclusion@uab.edu\)\)](#)

The graduate certificate in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Advocacy (**DEIA**) is designed to provide learners with opportunities to gain knowledge, skills, and competencies associated with advancing personal, social, and cultural initiatives to combat interpersonal and systemic inequities as well as foster cultures of inclusion and justice. Learners who complete the DEIA graduate certificate will display their knowledge of and ability to apply desirable competencies within, yet not limited to post-secondary education institutions, civic engagement, nonprofit, and politically minded organizations, health care providers, as well as the business and industry sectors. Courses in the DEIA graduate certificate program are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporating into the IGS degree.

[Leadership & Professional Development - Certificate available](#)

The **LEAD** certificate is designed to provide students with opportunities to master leadership and professional development competencies. The dynamic nature of today's society and economy requires us all to think critically, communicate effectively, and transfer skills into multiple environments. LEAD facilitates learning and competencies required for academic, career, and personal success. Courses in the LEAD graduate certificate program are offered in the standard letter grading format and may be incorporating into the IGS degree.

[Mentoring & Leadership - Certificate available](#)

The **Mentoring and Leadership** certificate is designed to provide students with opportunities to build strong mentoring and leadership skills while exploring what it takes to be a mentoring leader. The certificate offers courses in mentoring, leadership, communication skills, and more.

Courses in the Mentoring and Leadership graduate certificate are offered in the pass/no pass grading format.

[Research Communication - Certificate available](#)

The graduate certificate in Research Communication (**RECM**) is a graduate-level credential that is designed to provide foundational knowledge and applicable experience in effective communication of research and key research findings to academic audiences, professional audiences, and to the general public across different communicative platforms. The RECM certificate focuses on developing current UAB graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and employees in both science and non-science fields to learn how to effectively communicate research and research findings. The certificate offers courses in presentation and discussion skills, academic writing, grant writing, writing for broad audiences, and more. Courses in the RECM graduate certificate program are offered in the Pass/No Pass as well as standard letter grading format. The standard letter grade format courses may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

[Research Laboratory Management - Certificate available](#)

The **Research Laboratory Management** certificate prepares graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and staff, who are engaged in science-related research, to effectively lead and manage all aspects of an active scientific laboratory. Managing laboratory needs, such as

budgetary and regulatory / safety compliance, is essential for career success in today's research marketplace. Courses in the Research Laboratory Management graduate certificate are offered in the pass/no pass as well as the standard letter grading formats. Graded courses may be incorporated into the IGS degree.

Teaching at the College Level - *Certificates available*

UAB offers two CIRTLL graduate certificates designed to provide you with opportunities to improve your teaching. Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, employees, and community members are welcome to take one or more CIRTLL courses. CIRTLL@UAB is part of the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CIRTLL) Network. Built around the core values of Learning through Diversity, Teaching as Research, and Interdisciplinary Learning Communities, CIRTLL is dedicated to preparing the next generation of college faculty. UAB offers two CIRTLL certificates:

1. CIRTLL Practitioner (15 credits) requires courses to help you gain teaching skills to prepare learners to develop, deliver, and assess learning opportunities for diverse populations.
2. CIRTLL Scholar (21 credits) builds on the Practitioner certificate and guides participants in developing and implementing a Teaching-As-Research (TAR) project to enhance teaching effectiveness. If you choose to complete the CIRTLL Scholar certificate, you will also be awarded the CIRTLL Practitioner certificate.

Admission to the Certificate Programs

Current UAB graduate students - fill out and submit the "Intent to Pursue" form located on each of the certificate's webpage.

For new students – click [here](#) to complete the UAB Graduate School Application indicating which certificate you wish to pursue.

Registration

For more information on how to register for classes, visit <https://www.uab.edu/students/academics/register-for-classes>.

Graduate Certificate in Academic Advising

| Requirements | Hours |
|--|----------|
| Core Classes | |
| AADV 600 Academic Advising History and Practices | 3 |
| HEA 660 College Student Development | 3 |
| AADV 610 Assessment in Academic Advising | 3 |
| AADV 620 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Advocacy in Academic Advising | 3 |
| Electives | 3 |
| AADV 630 Special Topics Seminar in Academic Advising | |
| AADV 640 Special Topics Workshop in Academic Advising | |

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching - Practitioner

| Requirements | Hours |
|---|-------|
| GRD 705 Teaching at the College Level | 2-3 |
| GRD 716 Developing a Teaching Portfolio | 2 |

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| GRD 750 | CIRTLL Seminar in Learning | 2 |
| GRD 751 | CIRTLL Teaching Methods | 2 |
| GRD 755 | CIRTLL Teaching Practicum | 3 |
| Elective Courses: | | 5 |
| GRD/RECM 701 | Presentation and Discussion Skills | |
| GRD/RECM 707 | Presenting Effectively | |
| GRD/RECM 708 | Writing Successfully | |
| GRD 713 | Mentoring 101 | |
| GRD/MENT 719 | Introduction to Mentoring & Leadership | |
| GRD/RECM 727 | Writing & Reviewing Research | |
| GRD 728 | Professional Writing & Publishing | |
| GRD/RECM 729 | Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks | |
| GRD/MENT 730 | Developing and Managing Your Professional Image | |
| GRD 733 | Managing & Leading Teams | |
| GRD/RECM 745 | Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| GRD 747 | Navigating the Job Market | |
| GRD/RECM 749 | Improvisational Techniques to Improve Leadership, Teaching, and Research Communication | |
| GRD 754 | Advanced Evidence-based Teaching | |
| GRD 766 | Introduction to Online Teaching | |

Total Hours **16-17**

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching - Scholar

| Requirements | Hours |
|---|---|
| GRD 705 Teaching at the College Level | 2-3 |
| GRD 716 Developing a Teaching Portfolio | 2 |
| GRD 750 CIRTLL Seminar in Learning | 2 |
| GRD 751 CIRTLL Teaching Methods | 2 |
| GRD 755 CIRTLL Teaching Practicum | 3 |
| GRD 759 CIRTLL Teaching-as-Research in STEM Courses | 3 |
| GRD 760 CIRTLL Teaching-as-Research Project | 3 |
| Elective Courses: | 5 |
| GRD/RECM 701 | Presentation and Discussion Skills |
| GRD/RECM 707 | Presenting Effectively |
| GRD/RECM 708 | Writing Successfully |
| GRD 713 | Mentoring 101 |
| GRD/MENT 719 | Introduction to Mentoring & Leadership |
| GRD/RECM 727 | Writing & Reviewing Research |
| GRD 728 | Professional Writing & Publishing |
| GRD/RECM 729 | Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks |
| GRD/MENT 730 | Developing and Managing Your Professional Image |
| GRD 733 | Managing & Leading Teams |

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| GRD 745 | Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| or RECM 745 | Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| GRD 747 | Navigating the Job Market | |
| GRD/RECM 749 | Improvisational Techniques to Improve Leadership, Teaching, and Research Communication | |
| GRD 752 | Introduction to Evidence-based Teaching | |
| GRD 753 | CIRTL Seminar on STEM Academic Teaching Careers | |
| GRD 754 | Advanced Evidence-based Teaching | |
| GRD 756 | CIRTL The College Classroom | |
| GRD 757 | CIRTL Effective Use of Technology in Teaching and Learning | |
| GRD 758 | CIRTL Diversity in the College Classroom | |
| GRD 761 | CIRTL Special Topics | |
| GRD 762 | CIRTL Individualized Seminar | |
| GRD 763 | CIRTL Individualized Teaching and Learning Project | |
| GRD 765 | CIRTL Individualized Teaching Experience II | |
| GRD 766 | Introduction to Online Teaching | |
| Total Hours | | 22-23 |

Graduate Certificate in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Advocacy

| Requirements | | Hours |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| Core Courses | | |
| DEIA 510 | Diversity Policy Politics and Practice | 3 |
| DEIA 520 | Equity and Inclusion | 3 |
| DEIA 530 | Leadership in Social Justice Advocacy, Self and Others | 3 |
| DEIA 590 | Engaged Scholarship in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Advocacy | 1-4 |
| Electives | | 3 |
| Total Hours | | 13-16 |

Certificate Leadership and Professional Development

| Requirements | | Hours |
|------------------|--|----------|
| LEAD 500 | Introduction to Leadership Behaviors, Characteristics and Theories | 3 |
| LEAD 520 | Ethics in the Workplace | 3 |
| LEAD 540 | Team Development and Dynamics | 2 |
| LEAD 590 | Leadership by Design | 2 |
| Electives | | 5 |
| LEAD 501 | Professional Writing for Leadership | |
| LEAD 502 | Professional Presentations for Leaders | |
| LEAD 503 | Professional Interview and Interviewing Skills for Leaders | |
| LEAD 504 | Introduction to Organizational Change Processes | |
| LEAD 505 | Prioritization and Decision Making for Leadership | |
| LEAD 506 | Emotionally Intelligent Leadership | |
| LEAD 521 | Servant Leadership | |
| LEAD 522 | Followership | |
| LEAD 523 | Gender Dynamics and Leadership | |
| LEAD 524 | Inter-generational Leadership | |
| LEAD 541 | Building Effective Teams | |
| LEAD 543 | Planning and Leading a Meeting for Leaders | |
| LEAD 544 | Conflict Negotiation in Leadership | |
| LEAD 545 | Planning and Facilitating a Retreat | |

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| LEAD 560 | Leadership and Professional Development Workshop | |
| Total Hours | | 15 |

Graduate Certificate in Mentoring and Leadership

| Requirements | | Hours |
|---|--|-----------|
| GRD/MENT 719 | Introduction to Mentoring & Leadership | 3 |
| GRD 735 | Leadership 101 | 1 |
| GRD 713 | Mentoring 101 | 1 |
| Choose ten (10) credit hours from the following electives: | | 10 |
| GRD/RECM 701 | Presentation and Discussion Skills | |
| GRD 705 | Teaching at the College Level | |
| GRD 706 | Grants and Fellowships 101 | |
| GRD/RECM 707 | Presenting Effectively | |
| GRD/RECM 708 | Writing Successfully | |
| GRD 715 | Preparing TAs to Be Effective Teachers | |
| GRD/RECM 727 | Writing & Reviewing Research | |
| GRD 728 | Professional Writing & Publishing | |
| GRD/MENT 730 | Developing and Managing Your Professional Image | |
| GRD 733 | Managing & Leading Teams | |
| GRD 734 | Ethical Leadership Development | |
| GRD 744 | Leadership Survival Skills | |
| GRD 745 | Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| GRD/MENT 746 | Critical Decisions in Mentoring & Leadership | |
| GRD 747 | Navigating the Job Market | |
| GRD 748 | Faculty Mentoring in Higher Education | |
| GRD 749 | Improvisational Techniques to Improve Leadership, Teaching, and Research Communication | |
| Total Hours | | 15 |

Graduate Certificate in Postdoctoral Professional Development

| Requirements | | Hours |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|
| Certificate Core Classes | | |
| GRD 709 | Writing Fellowships | 3 |
| GRD 717 | Principles of Scientific Integrity | 3 |
| GRD 773 | Research Lab Management | 3 |
| Certificate Electives | | 6 |
| GRD/RECM 707 | Presenting Effectively | |
| GRD 745 | Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| GRD/RECM 727 | Writing & Reviewing Research | |
| GRD 719 | Introduction to Mentoring & Leadership | |
| GRD 733 | Managing & Leading Teams | |
| GRD/RECM 739 | Research Communication Portfolio | |
| GRD 766 | Introduction to Online Teaching | |
| INFO 601 | Introduction to Bioinformatics | |
| MBA 681 | From Idea to IPO | |

MBA 683 Leading Innovation

Total Hours 15

Certificate in Research Communication

| Requirements | Hours |
|---|----------|
| GRD/RECM 701 Presentation and Discussion Skills | 3 |
| GRD/RECM 722 Writing Research for Broad Audiences | 3 |
| GRD/RECM 739 Research Communication Portfolio | 3 |
| Electives | 8 |
| CM 603 Message Construction | |
| CM 604 Analysis of Communication Audiences | |
| EH 502 Writing in Popular Periodicals | |
| EH 503 Business Writing | |
| EH 504 Technical Writing | |
| EH 557 Writing and Medicine | |
| GRD 706 Grants and Fellowships 101 | |
| GRD/RECM 707 Presenting Effectively | |
| GRD/RECM 708 Writing Successfully | |
| GRD 723 Writing Research for Academic Audiences | |
| GRD/RECM 727 Writing & Reviewing Research | |
| GRD/RECM 729 Writing Your Journal Article in 12 Weeks | |
| GRD/RECM 745 Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| GRD/RECM 749 Improvisational Techniques to Improve Leadership, Teaching, and Research Communication | |
| MBA 616 Web Analytics | |

Total Hours 17

Certificate in Research Lab Management

| Requirements | Hours |
|---|----------|
| Required Coursework | |
| GRD/RLM 773 Research Lab Management | 3 |
| MBA 631 Management and Organizations | 3 |
| GRD 706 Grants and Fellowships 101 | 1 |
| GRD/RLM 774 Introduction to Regulatory Compliance | 1 |
| GRD/RLM 775 Research Lab Safety | 1 |
| Electives | 6 |
| MBA 601 Accounting and Finance for Managers | |
| MBA 681 From Idea to IPO | |
| GRD/RECM 701 Presentation and Discussion Skills | |
| GRD/MENT 719 Introduction to Mentoring & Leadership | |
| GRD/RECM 745 Communication and Diversity Leadership | |
| GRD/RECM 727 Writing & Reviewing Research | |

Total Hours 15