



ANSC*6610 - Scientific Communication, Knowledge Dissemination and Professional Development

Fall 2026 Course Outline

Section: 01

Credits: 0.50

Land Acknowledgement: Guelph

The University of Guelph resides on the ancestral lands of the Attawandaron people and the treaty lands and territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. We recognize the significance of the Dish with One Spoon Covenant to this land and offer respect to our Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and Métis neighbours. Today, this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples and acknowledging them reminds us of our important connection to this land where we work and learn.

Calendar Description

This course helps to foster graduate student career success in academia, government or industry by enhancing student skills in scientific communication and knowledge dissemination and by providing opportunities for personal growth in a chosen area of professional development.

Restriction(s): Restricted to Animal Biosciences students.

Department(s): Department of Animal Biosciences

Lecture Schedule

TuTh 4pm-5:20pm in ROZH*105 (9/10 to 12/22)

Instructor Information

Belinda Ward-Campbell

Email: belindwc@uoguelph.ca

Teaching Assistant Information

Sarah MacDonald Murray

Email: smacdo20@uoguelph.ca

Learning Resources

Required Resources

The ANSC*6610 CourseLink site will be the primary location for information, announcements, and assignment instructions for the course. There are **no** additional resources required for the course in terms of textbooks etc.

Additional *recommended* resources will be linked to on CourseLink.

Course Resources

Students will require use of a laptop to complete assignments and peer reflection exercises.

Cost of Textbooks and Learning Resources

Textbook / Learning Resource	Required / Recommended	Cost
N/A		N/A



Course Level Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, learners should be able to:

1. Communicate effectively in animal biosciences contexts by translating scientific information for diverse audiences (e.g. peers, industry, policymakers, public) and by demonstrating clear, professional interpersonal communication in teamwork, group discussions, and networking.
2. Apply critical thinking and problem-solving skills to analyze evidence, address complex research problems, and make reasoned, evidence-informed decisions in animal biosciences.
3. Evaluate ethical issues in agricultural and companion animal research and practice, and justify context-appropriate, ethically-sound decisions.
4. Develop professional application materials (e.g. CV, resume, cover letter) that effectively present strengths, experiences, and transferable skills.
5. Collaborate and lead effectively in teams by fostering positive group dynamics, practicing feedback, conflict resolution, and informal leadership.
6. Explore diverse career pathways and knowledge mobilization strategies by comparing academic and non-academic trajectories and designing approaches to share research with stakeholders.

Teaching and Learning Activities

Weekly Activities

The topics covered in this course are loosely broken down by week. Topics may change or shift slightly from week to week as availability of guest speakers may need to be adjusted.

1. Course Introduction and Professional Identity; Transferrable Skills and Strengths
2. Self-management; Professional Growth and Reflection
3. Critical Thinking and Evaluating Evidence; Career Pathways in ABSc
4. Résumé workshop; Application packages
5. Professional Judgement and Decision Making
6. Knowledge Translation and Outreach
7. Teamwork; Problem Framing and Idea Generation
8. Animal Ethics in Research and Practice; Audience Analysis and Scientific Communication
9. Interpersonal Communication
10. Professional Presence; Project Development
11. Pitching Ideas and Communicating Impact; Project Development
12. Project Presentations and Course Wrap-up

Assessment Breakdown

Description	Weighting (%)	Due Date
Professional Identity and Career Exploration	15%	September 28, 2026
Résumé draft & peer review	5% 5%	October 14, 2026 October 20, 2026
Job Application Package	25%	November 9, 2026
KTT and Outreach Project	25%	December 1, 2026
Peer Evaluation	10%	December 3, 2026
Final Reflection	15%	December 11, 2026

Assessment Details

Assignment

Professional Identity and Career Exploration

15%

In this assignment, you will explore your professional identity and career goals within animal biosciences. You will analyze three job postings aligned with your interests, identify the skills and experiences sought by employers, and reflect on your own strengths and areas for future development. The goal is to help you better understand potential career pathways and begin planning for your professional growth during graduate school.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 4, 6



Résumé Draft and Peer Review

10%

Résumé Draft (5%)

You will prepare a draft version of your résumé targeted to a career direction or area of animal biosciences that interests you. This draft provides an opportunity to begin translating your experiences, skills, and accomplishments into a professional résumé. The focus is on developing strong content and accomplishment-focused bullet points before preparing the final Job Application Package.

Peer Review of Résumé Draft (5%)

As part of developing professional communication and feedback skills, you will review and provide constructive feedback on three anonymous résumé drafts. The goal is to help your peers strengthen their application materials while developing your own ability to critically evaluate professional résumés. Grades are based on completion of the peer review process and the quality of feedback provided, rather than the evaluations themselves.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 4, 5

Job Application Package

25%

In this major assignment, you will develop a professional job application package tailored to a specific position or career pathway of interest. Building on earlier course activities and feedback, you will refine your résumé and prepare a targeted cover letter that clearly communicates your qualifications, accomplishments, and transferable skills. The goal is to create a cohesive and professional application package that effectively presents your fit for a chosen opportunity while strengthening your ability to communicate your professional identity.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 4

Group Project

Knowledge Translation and Outreach Project

25%

Working in teams, you will develop a knowledge translation and outreach product that addresses a real communication or educational need within animal biosciences. The project will require you to translate scientific information for a specific audience, develop engaging and audience-appropriate materials, and apply principles of communication, problem solving, teamwork, and knowledge mobilization.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6

Peer Evaluation

Peer Evaluation

10%

Professional work often involves collaborating effectively with others. As part of the Knowledge Translation and Outreach Project, you will evaluate your own contribution and the contribution of your teammates. Evaluations will consider participation, communication, reliability, professionalism, and overall contribution to the project. The goal is to encourage accountability and support effective teamwork.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 5

Reflective Activities

Final Reflection

15%

This assignment asks you to reflect on your learning and professional development over the semester. Drawing on course activities, assignments, and experiences, you will consider how your perspectives, strengths, goals, and professional identity have evolved. The emphasis is on connecting your experiences in the course to your future academic and professional development.

Course Learning Outcomes Assessed: 1, 4, 6

Last Day to Drop Course

The final day to drop Fall 2026 courses without academic penalty is the last day of classes: December 04

After this date, a mark will be recorded, whether course work is completed or not (a zero is assigned for missed tests/assignments). This mark will show on the student's transcript and will be calculated into their average.

Assignment Submission and Deadlines

Assignments must be submitted through CourseLink (Dropbox of Feedback Fruits) as indicated in the assignment instructions.

Deadlines are intended to support the flow of the course and provide timely feedback. Some assignments include peer review or collaborative components that depend on timely submission. Students who submit work after the deadline may be unable to participate in these components.

Students who anticipate difficulty meeting a deadline should contact the instructor as early as possible.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative AI tools is permitted in this course as a support for learning, brainstorming, organizing ideas, reviewing drafts, and improving written communication. Examples include tools such as ChatGPT, Copilot, Claude, and AI-powered features embedded within other software.

This course is designed to help you develop your professional identity, communication skills, judgement, and ability to translate knowledge for different audiences. As a result, work submitted for assessment should reflect your own experiences, perspectives, and professional voice. AI tools may support your work, but should not replace the personal reflection, critical thinking, or professional communication expected in course assignments.

The use of AI tools in this course is **optional**, not required. Students may choose not to use AI tools for personal, ethical, environmental, accessibility, or other reasons and will not be disadvantaged in the course. Regardless of whether AI tools are used, students remain responsible for the accuracy, quality, and integrity of all submitted work.

Standard Statements for Graduate Courses

Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/academic-misconduct/>) is outlined in the Graduate Calendar.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 10 business days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). For students at the Guelph campus, information can be found on the SAS website. (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>)

Accommodation of Religious Obligations

If you are unable to meet an in-course requirement due to religious obligations, please email the course instructor within two weeks of the start of the semester to make alternate arrangements.

See the Academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Accommodation of Religious Obligations (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/academic-accommodation-religious-obligations/>)

Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/registration/>) dropping courses are available in the Graduate Calendar (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/registration/>).

Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.



Health and Wellbeing

The University of Guelph provides a wide range of health and wellbeing services at the Vaccarino Centre for Student Wellness (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/>). If you are concerned about your mental health and not sure where to start, connect with a Student Wellness Navigator (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/navigators>) who can help develop a plan to manage and support your mental health or check out our mental wellbeing resources. (<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/shine-this-year>) The Student Wellness team are here to help and welcome the opportunity to connect with you.

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The Academic Calendars (<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/?index>) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Graduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration (<https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/general-regulations/grounds-academic-consideration/>).