



THRIVING IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

Institute of Genomic Biology
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative



OUR GOALS

- First-year students are undergoing a transition
- Solidarity and relatability
- Improve community within the graduate college/IGB
- Give students tools to succeed
- Improving retention for underrepresented groups

TOPICS

- Setting boundaries and expectations (presented by grad students)
- Navigating the Advisor-Student Relationship (presented by the office of Graduate Student Success)
- Mental Health in Grad School (presented by the counseling center)
- International Student Panel (volunteer graduate students)
- Self-advocacy, Networking, and Elevator Pitches

OUR SEMINARS

- September 8th – November 3rd (every other Thursday at 5:00)
- Free food (and also socialization, icebreakers, networking)
- Keynote speaker or panel on a topic
- Questions and open discussion
- Follow-up

OUR NUMBERS

- 35 students at the first meeting
- 20 students at the rest
- Some repeat attendance
- 146 students on the email list
- 25 students signed up for “coffee talk” groups

OUR OUTREACH

- Event description in GradLinks with interest form
- Weekly emails to collected addresses
- Posters hung up in the IGB
- Word of mouth, department coordinators

Thriving in
~~Surviving~~ in
Graduate School

- Student-led workshop series for first-year graduate students
- **Free food** and networking
- Every other Thursday at 5:00 in the IGB Array café conference room

Scan code to sign up and stay in the loop (no commitment to attend)



Sponsored by the IGB initiative for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

ENTRANCE SURVEY

- N = 24
- Represent 9+ departments housed at IGB and several others (Political science, aerospace, Teaching)
- 67% PhD students
- 50% said "yes" to "I have role models who prepared me for graduate school"; 16% first-generation students
- Primary reasons for attending: Socialize/Network with other students and get practical advice from older students
- Most-anticipated seminars: Mental health, goal-setting
- Most-stressful aspects: post-grad job search, conducting original research; TA-ing, mental health and financial management
- 50% international students

EXIT SURVEY

- N = 3
- Positive things to say: “I really learned a lot from the workshops”, “it was great to get out of my discipline bubble”
- Room for improvement: International Student Panel got off-topic, did not attend Mental Health workshop because they didn’t know if it would be new or graduate-specific information
- Suggestions: goal-setting, time management, grad student group recruitment

NEXT YEAR

- Advertise in GradLinks even earlier
- Organizers from more than one department
- Food options (JJ: \$1000 for five seminars)
- Every week instead of every other?
- Additional topics or speakers?



COMMENTS?