

**George Mason University**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**Exercise, Fitness & Health Promotion**

EFHP 690.004 – Scientific Communications Seminar  
1 Credits, Fall 2017  
Thursday: 9:00 – 10:15 AM  
256 Bull Run Hall – Science & Technology Campus

**Faculty**

Name: Dr. Joel Martin  
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 AM to Noon or by appointment  
Office Location: 207 Bull Run Hall  
Office Phone: 703-993-7607  
Email Address: [jmarti38@gmu.edu](mailto:jmarti38@gmu.edu)

**Prerequisites/Corequisites**

Graduate standing or permission of the instructor

**University Catalog Course Description**

Studies and applies written and verbal communication skills in reading, analyzing, writing, and distributing scientific information in Applied Kinesiology.

**Course Overview**

In this course students learn the skills required for scientific communications. Students will review scientific information presented in professional and popular media. Students will also develop a scientific communication proposal that will include describing the significance ability to communicate will be evaluated using in a variety of formats as they present information. Additionally, students will explore various career opportunities available and identify skills, knowledge and abilities employers are currently seeking. Professional communication skills will be developed by a number of in-class and out-of-class activities.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course is delivered through classroom instruction (face to face), and online assignments.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Review and evaluate the quality of scientific literature
2. Present scientific information using professional written and verbal communication formats
3. Evaluate personal strengths and weaknesses in light of demands and expectations of employment in the various positions in the field
4. Explore career opportunities in the professional field.
5. Develop professional and inter-personal skills desired by employers

## Required Texts

N/A

## Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to submit all assignments on time in the manner outlined by the instructor (e.g., Blackboard, Tk20, hard copy).

- **Assignments and/or Examinations**
  - **Resume / Cover Letter**
    - Create a resume and cover letter. If you already have a resume use this assignment as an opportunity to update and improve it. Reviewing the Resume Contents sections that describe and give examples of an Objective, Education, Experience, etc. will help you create the rough draft of your resume.
  - **Educational Video**
    - Make a short (3-5 minute) video explaining a concept or demonstrating proper exercise technique for a movement/lift of your choice. These educational videos are commonly used to educate clients by a variety of professionals.
  - **Search Committee Matrix**
    - For the in-class job search you will need to submit an excel sheet that contains your scoring of each candidate for the position you are assigned to serve on the search committee for.
  - **Search Committee Candidate Summary**
    - For the in-class job search you will need to submit a word document that contains your summary comments of each candidate selected for the second round of the search for the position you are assigned to serve on the search committee for.
  - **Professional Reflection**
    - Write a 1-page reflection on your professional strengths and weaknesses. For each weakness develop a plan to improve. Include short-, medium- and long-term career goals.
  - **Article / Topic Critiques**
    - Throughout the semester students and guests may present a variety of articles and/or topics to the class. For some of these articles / topics you will be asked to submit a 1-page critique.
- **Other Requirements**
  - **Attendance**
    - Students are expected to be on time, attend all class meetings and be prepared for in class assignments and projects. Excused absences include the following: illness (must bring a receipt or note from a doctor), family death, athletic/academic event, and others at the discretion of the instructor. For known upcoming absences, students must contact the instructor at least one week in advance to the missed class to make up work. In the case of illness or some other unforeseen absence, the student must contact the instructor via e-mail or telephone. At the next attended class meeting the student will

discuss material that is to be completed. It is the student's obligation to pursue any make-up work.

○ **Academic Load**

- Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment and personal responsibilities are not acceptable reasons for late arrivals, missed classes, or incomplete assignments. Employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities. For additional information on this subject, please see the GMU Academic Catalog ([http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=104#Registration\\_attendance](http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=104#Registration_attendance)). Students failing to observe these guidelines should expect no special consideration for academic problems arising from the pressures of employment.

○ **Honor Code**

- Students are held to the standards of the George Mason University Honor Code (see <http://honorcode.gmu.edu> for details). Violations, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to the Honor Committee. Student assignments may be put through plagiarism detecting software.

○ **Written Assignments**

- All assignments must be typed in Microsoft Word, and formatted as follows (*unless otherwise specified*): double spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins, your name and title in the running header at top left hand corner, continuous line numbers on left margin, and page numbers centered in footer. Failure to comply with any or all parts of this format will result in an unacceptable assignment, which corresponds to zero (0) points.
- Pay close attention to spelling and grammar as these will count towards your grade on written assignments. American Medical Association Manual (AMA) of Style (10<sup>th</sup> edition) format must be used for all written work in this class (e.g., in referencing, creation of tables, and formatting headers for paper sections).
- Assignments must be turned in on Blackboard/MyMason Portal by the beginning of class on the specified date due (*unless otherwise specified*). No late assignments will be accepted. It is recommended that students keep copies of all submitted work.

○ **Technology Use During Class**

- As per GMU policy, all sound emitting technology is required to be turned off during the class meeting time. No sound emitting technology (e.g., cell phones, smart phones, iPads, Tablets, pagers, etc.) is allowed at any time during the class period. Students who are observed using any form of technology inappropriately (e.g., sending text messages from cell phones, visiting social networking sites from laptops, etc) will be dismissed from

class for the day, counted as an absence, and not permitted to make up missed assignments. Additionally, no laptop computers (e.g., netbooks, notebooks, etc.) will be permitted for use during class time unless with permission from the instructor.

- **E-mail Correspondence**

- Only messages that originate from a George Mason University address will be accepted. *Emails with no text in the body will not be acknowledged.* *Note:* All email will be responded to in the order in which it is received. Students should allow 48 hours for a response.

- **Grading**

Assignments	% of Total Grade	Course Objectives
Resume / Cover Letter	5%	3, 4 & 5
Educational Video	10%	1, 2, 3, 4 & 5
Search Committee Matrix	5%	3, 4 & 5
Search Committee Candidate Summary	10%	3, 4 & 5
Professional Reflection	10%	3, 4 & 5
Article / Topic Critiques	10%	1 & 2
Class Participation & Attendance	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, & 5
<b>Total</b>	100%	

Grade	Percentage	Quality Points	Grade	Percentage	Quality Points
A	93%	4.00	B-	80%	2.67*
A-	90%	3.67	C	73%	2.00
B+	87%	3.33	F	<73%	0.00
B	83%	3.00			

**Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

## Class Schedule

<b>Week / Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter/Assignment Due</b>
1 / Aug 31	Welcome Back! Overview of course / EXPRESS Meeting	
2 / Sept 7	Resumes & Cover Letters	<b>Resume &amp; Cover Letters</b>
3 / Sept 14	<b>STRIDE</b>	
4 / Sept 21	Educational Videos	<b>Educational Video</b>
5 / Sept 28	<b>STRIDE</b>	
6 / Oct 5	Search Committee Candidate Scoring	<b>Search Committee Matrix</b>
7 / Oct 12	<b>STRIDE</b>	
8 / Oct 19	Candidate Interviews 1	
9 / Oct 26	<b>STRIDE</b>	
10 / Nov 2	Candidate Interviews 2	
11 / Nov 9	<b>STRIDE</b>	
12 / Nov 16	Search Committee Reports & Discussion	
13 / Nov 23	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Recess</i>	
14 / Nov 30	<b>STRIDE</b>	<b>Search Committee Candidate Summary</b>
15 / Dec 7	End of the semester wrap-up	<b>Professional Reflection</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.

## Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

## GMU Policies and Resources for Students

### *Policies*

- Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code/>).
- Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students **solely** through their Mason email account.
- Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <http://ods.gmu.edu/>).
- Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be silenced during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

### *Campus Resources*

- Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <http://coursessupport.gmu.edu/>.
- For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>

**For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/> .**