

Professional Leadership for Engineers

MatSE-590 / ENG-591

Fall 2023

Course Description: This course is designed to equip graduate students with the professional skills to navigate graduate school in a productive and inclusive manner. Students will develop cultural competence and awareness that enables positive interactions with scientists from diverse backgrounds, understand ethics in research, build habits to manage research and personal challenges, and work constructively with others. Through collaborative discussion and self-reflection exercises, students will identify their personal and professional values, and be able to create cultures of excellence within their learning environments. This course is open to engineering graduate students.

Instruction and Course Organization

Ashleigh Wright, Office: Everitt Labs 0242E, ashleigh@illinois.edu

Course Schedule & Location: Wednesdays 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm, Sidney Lu Mechanical Engineering Rm 2058

Grading: Final grades will be S/U

Absences: If you are unable to attend any of the lectures, please notify the instructor in advance

Special Accommodations

We are committed to assisting students requiring special accommodations for circumstances that are registered with the DRES Student Services Department. These accommodations must be discussed with Dr. Ashleigh Wright

Inclusion and Diversity

We are committed to providing a climate of excellence and inclusiveness within all aspects of the course. Any student with concerns or facing special challenges may discuss the matter with Dr. Ashleigh Wright with an assurance of full anonymity and confidentiality.

Academic Integrity

In addition to this syllabus, this course is governed by the rules and guidelines outlined in the Code of Policies and Regulations Applying to All Students (www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/). It is your responsibility to refrain from infractions of academic integrity and conduct that aids others in such violations. All students are responsible for knowing the policies regarding academic integrity. Suspected infractions of academic integrity will be addressed as mandated by the Code.

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Course Schedule (subject to change)

Date	
August 23	Course Introduction
August 30	Identifying Values, Choices & Decision Making
September 6	STEM Identity
September 13	STEM Identity Presentations
September 20	Owning Your Career; Individual Development Plans
September 27	IDP Individual Meetings
October 4	Culture of Excellence; Labs That Work film
October 11	Mentoring, Establishing Expectations
October 18	Understanding Lab Culture
October 25	Effective Communication, Power and Questions
November 1	Proactive Practices & Mistakes and Accountability
November 8	Difficult Conversations & Apologies and Mentoring
November 15	Data Management
November 22	Project Management
November 29	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 6	Reflection Exercises and Final Assignment