BIOL 639 002, Spring 2020. Careers in Biotechnology.  
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Time and Location: Wednesdays 4:00 – 5:00 in Genome Sciences Building 1373

This seminar course will give graduate and advanced undergraduate students information on opportunities for employment in the biotechnology industry, how research is managed in a company environment, and strategies for launching a successful career. Students will meet and hear from life science and agricultural biotechnology professionals describing their roles in the industry, their work experiences, and career paths. Advice will be provided on deciding if industry is a good career fit, and how to get started. Students will be expected to develop a general understanding of R&D processes in the biotechnology space, and a clearer idea of whether the industry is right for them.

Grades for the one credit hour will be based on class attendance, and completion of a topical project. For the project, students will work in small teams to identify a relevant challenge in food or human health, develop an R&D plan to address it, and deliver a pitch-format presentation justifying the R&D concept and its funding as a new venture. At the end of the course, students will complete a survey to help them determine if biotechnology is an opportunity they might wish to pursue.

Course agenda

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| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** |
| 1 | 8-Jan | Course overview |
| 2 | 15-Jan |  |
| 3 | 22-Jan |  |
| 4 | 29-Jan | Launch team projects |
| 5 | 5-Feb |  |
| 6 | 12-Feb |  |
| 7 | 19-Feb |  |
| 8 | 26-Feb |  |
| 9 | 4-Mar | Visit biotech company |
| 10 | 18-Mar |  |
| 11 | 25-Mar |  |
| 12 | 1-Apr |  |
| 13 | 8-Apr |  |
| 14 | 15-Apr |  |
| 15 | 22-Apr | Team pitches |
|  | 28-Apr | Surveys due |