

Professional Development Emphasis Activities

Activity	Time	Outcomes
Communications course	Fall & Spring semesters, years 1 and 2	Advanced training in oral presentations and the art of critiquing
USC and NGP Grant-writing workshops	Fall & Spring semesters for 2 nd or early 3 rd year students	Advanced training in fellowship applications; <u>required</u> mentor training to develop student training plan
Career Development workshops	NGF-sponsored activities	Career-planning skills, making professional connections, working on interview skills
Individualized Development Plan (AAAS myIDP or modified Vanderbilt IDP)	Annual	IDP provides student with opportunity to build training and career goals annually, and with mentor & PD, monitor ongoing progress towards those goals.
Qualifying Exams	End of year 2 (Part A) and end of year 3 (Part B)	Skill development in critical reading and summarize research literature; training in formal research proposal writing and defending
NGF Forum and NGP Retreat	Annual	Oral presentation skills
RCR Required training modules; Required Ethics and Professionalism course (INTD500); required retreat workshop; policy and public communication workshop; USC-imposed training updates	Orientation week – HIPPA, Animal use, biosafety, sexual and other harassment training; Summer semester, year 1 required course; annual NGP retreat; every other year; as required by USC	Ethical treatment of human and animal research subjects; Professional skill development in the 'workplace'; Ethical behavior in research & problem-solving skills in ethics challenges; peer collaborations to problem solve ethical dilemmas in research and education
USC Academic Professional Development Summer Institute	Every summer semester	Writing skills (grants, manuscripts); academic professional development - interview skills; portfolios
National summer course attendance (CSHL, Woods Hole, Keystone); national and international scientific meeting presentations	NGP provides partial support for travel or course tuition for NGP students who have met all milestones any time after passing Part A	Develop sophisticated scientific skills; meet other national and international neuroscience students and postdocs; present research on national and international stages