

First Annual UMSN Summer Pre-PhD Institute
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Who? All incoming AY 20/21 PhD students are highly encouraged to participate. In Summer of 2021, this program will be open to all incoming and aspiring PhD students from amongst our undergraduate and graduate programs.

What? Three-day intensive to focus on writing, analytics, and other academic, personal and social support.

Where? The institute is at the UMSN however a virtual format will be used if needed.

When? In 2020 participants will meet from 9am-3pm on September 1st 4th and 8th. Beginning in 2021, the institute will be held in the summer.

Why? This intended to be a very low stress - high value experience with three strategies for strengthening students' foundation for the PhD program: increasing self- knowledge about individual writing and analytical skills so they can identify areas of potential growth and how they might pursue growth, orienting students to key strategies and approaches for meeting the academic challenges ahead, and strengthening peer relationships and knowledge of the networks of support they have from within our larger UMSN/UM community.

How? The institute will move forward analytical, writing, and social objectives.

Day One: Writing

Students arrive with a piece of writing, attend the workshop, and receive personal coaching. Lunch is a conversational format with current PhD students.

Day Two: Social

This day will deepen the focus on peer/personal support networks. Students may provide short presentations on their personal backgrounds and journeys to the PhD and their areas of interest for research. We may be joined by a small panel of distinguished scholars from diverse backgrounds who can speak in short Ted Talk format to their own journeys, their research methods, how they have been able to impact science, the implications of their science for life and society and advice to our students. The emphasis of this day is on how our diversity makes us stronger, as well as developing a shared commitment to inclusion and equity.

Day Three: Analytical – Rob Ploutz-Snyder

This day may include pre-work in self-assessment. There may be a hands-on demonstration component during the session as well as conversational components. The goal is for students to walk away more confident, enthusiastic and knowledgeable about how to progress through analytical skill development based on where they are currently in skill development. Lunch is with recently graduated PhD's, giving students the opportunity to "see the other side" and better anticipate/visualize their own academic and personal growth.

Academic Year Extension - Academic Year Writing and Analytics Coaches

PhD students will serve as peer writing and analytics coaches during the Fall and Winter semesters. Coaches will keep regular walk-in office hours. Use of coaches will be voluntary yet highly encouraged for all incoming PhD Students. The purpose of the coaches is to provide incoming PhD students with additional support in meeting there analytical and writing goals.