



## **Undergraduate Virtual Professional Development (VPD) 2024 Webinar Session Descriptions**

### **Workshop 1 - Showing Up as Your Best Authentic, Professional Self**

**Wed. June 5th 1 pm EDT**

Being part of an academic or professional community means balancing who you are with the norms associated with your professional environment. In this workshop panelists will share tips, tricks and insight on how to be yourself and succeed in professional spaces without compromising who you are and your unique identity. Topics that may be discussed include email communication, conference etiquette including poster sessions, networking, social media/internet presence, and interviews.

### **Workshop 2 - Understanding Universities**

**Wed. June 12th 1 pm EDT**

The administrative structure at universities and colleges can be confusing, and who to go to for specific information or situations can be unclear. This session will introduce the roles of higher education administrators such as presidents, provosts, vice presidents, deans, and department chairs. Speakers will discuss who the decision makers are at institutions of higher education, how administrators' work relates directly to students, and how to engage these individuals for support during your academic career.

### **Workshop 3 - Choosing a Path After Undergrad**

**Wed. June 26th 1 pm EDT**

Thinking about your next steps after graduation can be daunting and overwhelming. This workshop will feature individuals who have gone through this decision process and highlight some of the options one can pursue after graduating with your undergraduate degree. Speakers will discuss how and why they decided to take a certain path, and explain how what you do after your time as an undergraduate does not preclude you from taking other paths as you progress through your professional career.

### **Workshop 4 - Applying to Graduate School**

**Mon. July 1st 1 pm EDT**

The graduate school application process can be very overwhelming and hard to understand. This session will feature a panel of graduate students who will be speaking about their experience with the application process. They will share tips based on what they learned going through the process, as well as talk about the factors to consider as you decide on which graduate programs to which you will apply.

**Workshop 5 - Academia and Other Options - What can you do with a PhD?****Wed. July 10th 1 pm EDT**

Historically, most individuals earning a PhD pursued a career in academia to conduct research and teach at a university or college. Today, many PhD graduates go into careers outside of academia. This workshop will explore the many career options available to those with a PhD including jobs in academia, administration, industry, and government. Panelists will share insight about their careers, as well as how they got to where they are in their professional journey.

**Workshop 6 - Research in the World****Wed. July 17th 1 pm EDT**

What happens to research after it leaves the laboratory or library? How can research impact the general public and society at large? During this workshop, speakers whose research has gotten out into the world will talk about what it is like to see their research be used, for good or bad, and what control they have over how their research is used. Workshop speakers also will discuss how their research has been applied to real world issues and give advice for future researchers.