**Bio Advising Newsletter – September 8, 2020**

**OVERVIEW (See below for details)**

**ADVISING**

1. Advising Appointments Starting Sept 4
2. S/NC Grade Option – Deadline Sept 16
3. Remote Instruction Extended until Sept 14
4. Is My class Remote or In Person after Sept 14?

**BIOLOGY HAPPENINGS**

1. Biology Peer Advisors – Office Hours Open!
2. Biology Representation at the Career Center

**OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Lab Assistant Needed – Department of Infectious Diseases
2. Microbiology and Immunology Diversity (MID) Scholars Program
3. Grad School Recruitment Opportunities
4. Job Opportunity for Graduates – Insanally Lab
5. Funded PhD Position – Conservation and Climate Change – UC Santa Cruz
6. Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)
7. Global Health Case Competition
8. Panthers *Forward*

**PRE-HEALTH**

1. PIC Health Careers
2. DPT Information Session

**INFO SESSIONS/WORKSHOPS**

1. Introduction to R – Sept 15
2. Virtual Career + Internship Fair - Sept 25
3. Lunch & Learn: Covid-19: Looking at the Infodemic – Sept 10
4. PittFundsMe and FASFA Financial Aid Webinar – Sept 10
5. First Experiences in Research Info Sessions – Sept 21
6. Global Health Certificate Info Session – Sept 11
7. Big Idea Kickoff – Sept 15 and 25

**CHECK IT OUT**

1. Biology-Related Clubs
2. Study Spaces Around Campus
3. Study Lab Drop-In Tutoring
4. Stress Free Zone
5. Bio Advising on Social Media

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1. **Advising Appointments Starting Sept 4**

***NEWLY DECLARED STUDENTS, please do not sign up for an enrollment appointment. You cannot meet with an advisor until after you complete the Biology Advising Orientation on Canvas, which will be available by the end of September.***

There are several types of appointments available during the month of September:

* **General Advising Appointment** – This is a 30-minute appointment designed for in-depth discussions of academic planning, career goals, extracurriculars, and more complex issues. Non-majors and prospective students are welcome to make these appointments through the end of September.
* **Pre-Enrollment Appointment –** This is a 30-minute appointment designed for planning and discussion of Spring and Summer 2021 scheduling, and for lifting advising holds. These appointments are reserved for majors only.
* **Senior Special** – This is a 15-minute appointment reserved for seniors who will graduate in April 2021, who need only a quick review of their plan and their advising hold removed.

Schedule using the Navigate Student app or access the Navigate Student [website](https://pitt.guide.eab.com/app/#!/authentication/remote/).

Spring enrollment begins October 23.

After you schedule an appointment, your advisor will send you a Zoom meeting invite. The email may also include a request for the following:

* An up to date copy of your [Progress Tracker](https://www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/forms)
* An up to date copy of your [Semester Planner](https://www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/forms) (don’t stress if you aren’t sure of your plan yet!)
* An idea of the questions you have for your advisor.

***\*\* Please submit these documents prior to your appointment. \*\****

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1. **S/NC Grade Option - Deadline Sept 16**

In considering if you would like to take a course as Letter Grade or Satisfactory/No Credit we recommend that you wait until the week of 9/14 to get the most data and determine how you want to proceed. Students with majors in the Dept of BIOSC may choose to take one BIOSC core course as S/NC.  Other minors, certs, and majors may have their own requirements.  Please check with the appropriate advisor before making a decision.

* Before Sept 4, you can change the grade option on your own by editing your courses in your Student Center. ***This is not reversible****.*
* After Sept 4 and until Sept 16, you can still change your grade option by filling out [this form](https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/Grade%20Option%20Audit%20Fillable.pdf) and emailing to StudentRecords@AS.Pitt.edu

**Please note that students will not have the option to change their grade option after September 16.**

*“Certain courses are offered on the S/NC (Satisfactory/No-Credit) grade option. This option was designed to encourage students to explore new and potentially difficult subjects without fear of the risks of failure. Under this option, a student who does satisfactory work (a grade of C or better) in a course receives the grade of S. If the student’s work is not satisfactory (a grade of C- or lower), the grade of NC (No Credit) is given. Courses for which an S is received are counted toward graduation, but are not computed in the GPA. Courses in which an NC is received are counted toward neither graduation nor the GPA.”*

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1. **Remote Instruction Extended until Sept 14**

From Provost Cudd,

“Although I had hoped that after beginning the first week of the semester remotely we would move immediately to mostly in-person classes, we now think it prudent to **extend the remote period until September 14**. This adjustment to the schedule will allow for the completion of staged arrival and shelter-in-place procedures so that all students can start in-person classes at the same time. Additional information about what in-person classes will take place while Pitt is in the Elevated Risk posture will be forthcoming.”

Instructors should be posting Zoom links or other relevant information in Canvas.

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1. **Is My Class Remote or In Person after Sept 14?**

You should check at least 3 places:

* **The class schedule.**  If the class is listed as WEB-based, it will be entirely online for the entire semester (don’t forget to check your recitation as well!!) If a classroom is listed, you must check the operational posture and the course syllabus for more information.
* **The University's**[**operational posture**](https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/operational-postures)**.**
	+ high risk = all classes will be online
	+ *elevated risk* = most classes will be online, but some classes with fewer than 25 students may meet in person
	+ *guarded risk* = classes with a listed classroom will have optional in-person meetings - check with your course syllabus for details.
* **Course syllabus.**  This will have detailed information regarding how a class will run.  Please check Canvas.

Before the end of add/drop, you can change the grade option on your own by editing your courses in your Student Center. *This is not reversible.*

After the end of add/drop and until Sep 20, you can still change your grade option at 140 Thackeray Hall.

*“Certain courses are offered on the S/NC (Satisfactory/No-Credit) grade option. This option was designed to encourage students to explore new and potentially difficult subjects without fear of the risks of failure. Under this option, a student who does satisfactory work (a grade of C or better) in a course receives the grade of S. If the student’s work is not satisfactory (a grade of C- or lower), the grade of NC (No Credit) is given. Courses for which an S is received are counted toward graduation, but are not computed in the GPA. Courses in which an NC is received are counted toward neither graduation nor the GPA.”*

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1. **Biology Peer Advisors – Office Hours Open!**

Our Peer Advisors start office hours Monday, Sept 7! These students are an **invaluable** **resource** for helping you navigate scheduling, bio classes, remote learning, gen eds, extracurriculars, take-out food, Netflix series, etc. They are here to share their experiences in and out of the classroom. Definitely check in with them!

**Fall Schedule:**

Monday 11:00 – 12:00 Kayla & Peter [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93436310447](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F93436310447&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C85e276b3294e4513dc1008d84e131e5b%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345191303044300&sdata=lr2blObAVJXZt7eGkWHJePt0nphlAfFl7tCePnymlfc%3D&reserved=0)

Monday 2:00 – 3:00 Jacob & Luke [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/95151233172](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F95151233172&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cb36ceccb60964d07b22f08d84de66303%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637344999179643106&sdata=R2xGZzB%2BAr3ALw961d%2FxjGVKy4QfMZ77XFIMYHnjeI4%3D&reserved=0)

Tuesday 2:45 – 3:45 Sarah & Sarah [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/92732583725](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F92732583725&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C777b874fcf5442bb01df08d84dea63ec%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345016381653626&sdata=6ijR3dA%2Fu8NUpdu73%2BaUCyjG8UcCFJVzw12%2BhdtuL6I%3D&reserved=0)

Thursday 11:00 – 12:00 Madison & Nicole [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/94822145512](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F94822145512&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C5bdc2d6509b74731544f08d84ddb4f9d%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C1%7C637344951612737199&sdata=y3I9h42l1LTbMmU10DjPjCS2YDD8YttixmuCFlSwaA4%3D&reserved=0)

<https://www.biology.pitt.edu/undergraduate/peer_advising>

In the meantime, you can read about these students on our blog: [http://bit.ly/2BS5zg6](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fbit.ly%2F2BS5zg6&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cfa95295199dc49fd885908d8437fcaf0%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637333563440163660&sdata=Vuv29tN9%2F25CzCSQxOIIAEnpD6nS9%2Fe40tuab%2BO8tYI%3D&reserved=0)

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1. **Biology Representation at the Career Center**

Ashley Hennen will now be assisting majors within the Department of Biology. She can assist you with your résumé, finding a job/internship, preparing for interviews, building your network, and more! Click [here](https://pitt.joinhandshake.com/login) to schedule a phone, Zoom, or email appointment via Handshake. You can email Ashley directly at amh348@pitt.edu.

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1. **Lab Assistant Needed – Department of Infectious Diseases**

Dr. Hong Nguyen from the Department of Infectious Diseases is looking for an undergraduate student lab assistant to assist with various tasks including specimen preparation and storage, shipping, and analysis. Work will not involve any SARS-CoV-2 specimen. The position would require up to 20 hours per week. Prior lab experience is preferred. Please contact Kailey Hughes, MPH at hugheskl4@upmc.edu.

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1. **Microbiology and Immunology Diversity (MID) Scholars Program**

The newly established MID program will engage underrepresented minority undergraduate students to consider careers in science, medicine and public health, as well as provide exposure to microbiology and immunology research, and improve diversity in STEM by preparing these students for careers in the biomedical sciences.

The program will provide $1500 in funding per semester (fall and spring) to cover 10 weeks of research, and $500 to travel to national scientific conferences.

The program is currently taking applications for the fall 2020 semester until September 21.

For more information, click [here](http://www.mmg.pitt.edu/education/undergraduate-program/mid-scholars-program). Contact Partha Biswas at psb13@pitt.edu for application questions.

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1. **Grad School Recruitment Opportunities**

A group of biomedical science and engineering focused graduate programs have created a consolidated website and calendar of events to help you on your virtual graduate program search for fall 2020.

The [BioGAP Recruitment Calendar Website](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fsite%2Fnagapbiogap%2Fvirtual-recruitment-events-calendar__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1A1_1U9OU%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561892567&sdata=6O%2FmtFwaFlqnAJi5ayF3oStQG8hYbKW9e1d5QBpa8Uk%3D&reserved=0" \o "Original URL: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://sites.google.com/site/nagapbiogap/virtual-recruitment-events-calendar__;!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1A1_1U9OU$  Click to follow link.) contains more details about three types of events:

1. Admission workshop panels jointly held by representatives from more than twenty institutions. Six presentations will cover topics including the application process, funding, interviews, REUs, and more.  Register at [https://forms.gle/bqK1FfQ6pNsyj7G46](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FbqK1FfQ6pNsyj7G46__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1AFqksdLM%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561902562&sdata=cGiJvO4IGVUpygpkF7yBRWg%2FIdMLfFMmY2Mv%2Fm33SlU%3D&reserved=0).
2. Large professional recruitment fairs that are either open to the public or available to event registrants.  Register at [http://careereco.com/join/biomed](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__http%3A%2F%2Fcareereco.com%2Fjoin%2Fbiomed__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1AgfnIP7I%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561902562&sdata=9%2Ffnn2rUix13HMwwHU2qbZrWa9rZ6d0eVfjDy%2BGDTMY%3D&reserved=0).
3. Virtual Information Sessions held by individual institutions.  See the BioGAP calendar for further details.

This new resource is provided at no cost. We hope that the website and accompanying calendar help streamline the graduate school exploration process and provide a little bit of clarity in a year when so much has been unclear.  Again, the website is [https://sites.google.com/site/nagapbiogap/virtual-recruitment-events-calendar](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2F%2Fsites.google.com%2Fsite%2Fnagapbiogap%2Fvirtual-recruitment-events-calendar__%3B!!KwNVnqRv!Wa1UcbqYBfpa5xoSMl78oW4MFUiPc6v0SIGoIF1lNmNQiJdd499z2V1A1_1U9OU%24&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C108869876eab433e90e208d84ac97efe%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637341576561912555&sdata=eSERzSumyaQZYweB0%2Blk5qWBzZNmcqHUNWJwb%2FCOntU%3D&reserved=0).

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1. **Job Opportunity for Graduates– Insanally Lab, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine**

The Insanally Lab at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine is seeking a full-time laboratory technician. We’re a brand-new neuroscience lab that studies the neural mechanisms that support flexible behavior. We incorporate a wide range of techniques including behavioral paradigms, neural recordings at different scales, optogenetic manipulations, and novel computational methods to relate neural recordings to behavior. We take mentoring seriously and strongly believe in fostering a productive and supportive environment for all lab members. We seek a highly motivated individual with excellent organizational and communication skills to help manage the laboratory. The successful applicant will be responsible for managing rodent colonies, running behavioral experiments, surgical implantations, and providing technical and administrative support to other trainees in the lab. For more information, check out our lab website: insanallylab.com

Qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in biology, neuroscience, or related field.

Salary: ~$30-$37k depending on qualifications.

Interested applicants should contact Michele Insanally at mni@pitt.edu

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1. **Funded PhD Position – Conservation and Climate Change – UC Santa Cruz**

The [Zavaleta lab](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzavaleta.eeb.ucsc.edu%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cf484f2882ff44265123c08d84e76a30e%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345618732910885&sdata=%2BI9zgSyXqFkZboneu4pHLJZ6dWX3Ir6CAq9aQQKmGCk%3D&reserved=0) in the [Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eeb.ucsc.edu%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cf484f2882ff44265123c08d84e76a30e%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345618732910885&sdata=ZFaBpwuhm03mk9zhNYIOpuwwVTfyUcgJGF1XQUuGA8I%3D&reserved=0) at the University of California-Santa Cruz seeks a Ph.D. student to join the Sierra Nevada Rosy-finch Project beginning summer 2021. The project links climate and other environmental changes to the ecology and conservation of mountaintop communities, with opportunities to develop dissertation work on population dynamics, distribution modeling, food webs and local adaptation, among other topics. Our lab, department and campus (an R-1, Hispanic-Serving Institution) value inclusion and diversity, and we encourage prospective students from backgrounds underrepresented in our field to apply.

The ideal candidate has experience in and commitment to four areas:

* Vertebrate field ecology, with experience handling and observing birds, mammals or herps, and with interest in pursuing research on the ecology and conservation of an alpine-breeding songbird in a range of topic areas.
* Work, living and travel in alpine environments including mountain safety and backpacking to enable safe, effective fieldwork in our study system.
* Mentoring students from diverse backgrounds in field research experiences, to enable undergraduate field interns to contribute successfully to the project.
* Excellent quantitative and writing skills, to analyze and communicate the outcomes of research to scientific and general audiences.

To inquire directly about your potential fit or to find out more, please send Erika (Zavaleta@ucsc.edu) a cover letter with resume/CV, transcripts (screenshot/ unofficial fine), and a writing sample (paper, statement, proposal, report, etc. with you as sole or lead author). Erika will contact strong candidates for a video interview.

UCSC is located on the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe, at the land-sea interface in one of the most biodiverse places in North America. The EEB Department, on UCSC’s coastal campus at the western edge of town, is home to a close-knit community of faculty, staff and students nested within the vibrant community of Santa Cruz, California.

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1. **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS)**

The Department of Biological Sciences' Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity is soliciting applications for an exciting opportunity for traditionally underrepresented undergraduate researchers to apply for attendance and presentation at Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS: [https://www.abrcms.org/index.php/present-at-abrcms/submit-an-abstract](https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abrcms.org%2Findex.php%2Fpresent-at-abrcms%2Fsubmit-an-abstract&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C2899eda3145e4bbbd46208d84e94e045%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637345748611110348&sdata=wGDiaMX3vYuspdYPIK%2Bya0rs0juBNLISMDniYT4zR40%3D&reserved=0)).

This virtual conference will take place Nov 9-13, and the department is planning its first ever participation in the conference this year and would like to support some biology undergrads to attend.

This is a very prestigious conference at which to present your own research (either as an oral presentation or poster) and a great networking opportunity for your future career.

If you have permission from your research advisor to present your research and fit the criteria (underrepresented in STEM, 2nd-4th year undergrad, masters student, or postbac; fit ABRCMS disciplines [MCDB-type research]), please email Sarah Hainer (sarah.hainer@pitt.edu) with your CV, a research title, and maximum 250 word abstract by 5pm Friday Sept 4th. Please also feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

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1. **Global Health Case Competition – October 30**

The Global Studies Center and the Center for Global Health is holding a Global Health Case Competition in October for Pitt students, both undergraduate and graduate. It is the first time such an event is taking place at the University of Pittsburgh.

The competition simulates professional practice in developing strategies to address a hypothetical global health scenario. Interdisciplinary teams of graduate and undergraduate students will develop presentations that address the scenario in a holistic way.

Each team will present their strategy for 15 minutes to a panel of three experts and the top team will receive support to represent Pitt at the [**2021 Emory University's International Case Competition**](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fglobalhealth.emory.edu%2Fstudents%2Fcase-competitions%2Findex.html&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cdcb50991b46d4b39513608d84f47875f%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637346517026464951&sdata=IedOBQWYVHkYtsISLjVg%2Bqpa7sTB%2FnGIUgjtxJLeLKI%3D&reserved=0)**.**

For more information visit <https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/node/2085>.

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1. **Panthers *Forward***

Pitt seniors on the Pittsburgh campus who intend graduate in 2021 and received federal student loans to fund their senior year can apply to [Panthers Forward](http://panthersforward.pitt.edu/).

The University will select 150 students to participate in the program and throughout the year, those students will receive mentoring opportunities with Pitt alumni, life-skills programming and invitations to special events. Shortly after participants graduate, the University will apply up to $5,000 directly to their federal loan balance.

<https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/announcements/pitt-seniors-get-5000-student-load-debt-relief>

Applications must be submitted by Sunday, Sept. 20.  [Apply online](https://form.jotform.com/201336618950152) and [read more](https://www.pittwire.pitt.edu/news/pitt-launches-initiative-support-education-debt-relief-and-student-success) in Pittwire.

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**PIC Health Careers**

If you are pre-med/pre-health, make sure that you schedule an appointment with Pitt Interprofessional Center for Health Careers (PICHC) who will be able to assist you with the testing and application processes. Refer to their [website](https://www.prehealth.pitt.edu/about-us) for more information, and schedule your appointment through the Navigate app.

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1. **DPT Information Session – Sept 16**

Learn more about Pitt’s top-ranked Doctor of Physical Therapy program at the information session on September 16 from 1-2 pm. Click [here](https://www.shrs.pitt.edu/dpt/admission/dpt-small-information-sessions) to find out more and register.

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1. **Introduction to R - Sept 15**

This workshop will cover the basics of R programming for data analysis and graphics using R Studio.

What is R? R is a programming language written for statistics that is free, well-documented, and runs almost everywhere. This program has a large (and growing) user base among scientists, especially in biological sciences. *Knowledge of R is an in-demand skill for students interested in pursuing jobs or graduate programs in biology*.

Neither programming experience nor familiarity with R is required. Registration *is* required. Click [here](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/Introduction_to_R#.X1adimdKhTZ).

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1. **Virtual Career + Internship Fair - Sept 25**

Virtually meet with representatives from local, regional, and national nonprofits, corporations, and government agencies. Explore internship and full- and part-time employment opportunities. [Registration](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/virtual_career_internship_fair_-_liberal_arts_sciences_and_business#.X1aGamdKhTZ) is required.

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1. **Lunch & Learn: Covid-19: Looking at the Infodemic – Sept 10**

The World Health Organization defines ‘infodemic’ as an ‘overabundance of information – some accurate and some not – occurring during a pandemic.’ The University of Pittsburgh’s Center for Research on Media, Technology, and Health is researching how the infodemic has spread in order to help stop the accidental sharing of inaccurate information. For meeting information and registration, click [here](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/lunch_learn_covid_infodemic#.X1aUTGdKhTY).

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1. **PittFund$Me and FASFA Financial Aid Webinar – Sept 10**

[PittFund$Me](https://financialaid.pitt.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/) matches you with scholarship opportunities that are tailored to you. Learn how to manage your scholarship applications and receive new scholarship alerts at the [Financial Aid Webinar](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/pittfundsme_and_fasfa_financial_aid_webinar_for_shrs_undergraduate_students#.X1abwWdKhTY).

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1. **First Experience in Research Info Sessions – Sept 21**

If you’re unsure of how to obtain a position in a research lab, First Experiences in Research can help. FE-R connects undergraduates to formal mentorship from faculty researchers from across the disciplines and schools at the University. Find out more about this program at their [Info Session](https://calendar.pitt.edu/event/fer#.X1adQmdKhTY).

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1. **Global Health Certificate Info Session – Sept 11**

Join the Global Health Certificate Information Session specifically for students pursing science related majors.
September 11, 2020 @ 12 Noon
No need to register. Just join in via Zoom  [https://pitt.zoom.us/j/98353577367](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpitt.zoom.us%2Fj%2F98353577367&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7Cdcb50991b46d4b39513608d84f47875f%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637346517026474947&sdata=GSZqp9%2BTTZ5Z1W2dw9697RDrzX%2BLYKrcCb2b5aBdeUw%3D&reserved=0)

The Global Studies Center at Pitt is offering an undergraduate certificate in global health. This timely 18 credit certificate in designed for students wanting to get equipped with the analytical tools and professional skills necessary to address our world’s most compelling health issues.  Students explore the transnational processes underpinning the global burden of disease and the social determinants of health, as well as related inequalities in access to high-quality medical care. Students are able to tailor a unique program (using Gen Eds, double counting up to 6 credits, and using electives) of study based on their academic, personal and career interests, including 18 credits of coursework and co-curricular experiential engagements.

For more information visit  <https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/undergraduate-global-health-certificate>
To view certificate courses visit <https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/program-courses>

Can't attend info session? Then explore your options with Elaine Linn, the global health certificate advisor. To schedule an appointment: <https://www.ucis.pitt.edu/global/advising>

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1. **Big Idea Kickoff – Sept 15 and 29**

Are you interested in innovation and entrepreneurship, but are not sure how to get involved? Our Big Idea Kickoff is your chance to meet the Big Idea Center as we “Kickoff” the start of our first entirely virtual semester!

Pick one of our two meeting options and join Big Idea Center staff and entrepreneurs in residence as we tell you a little bit about what the Big Idea Center has to offer Pitt students.

We will be unveiling our events calendar and conducting a live Q&A session where students will be able to have their questions about the Big Idea Center answered in real time. This event is a perfect stepping-stone for students to get involved in the innovation and entrepreneurship activities here at Pitt!

Registration is required in order to receive a unique Zoom meeting link and password.
[Register and learn more here.](https://go.innovation.pitt.edu/bigideakickoff)

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1. **Biology Related Clubs**

***\*\*\*If you would like to spread the word about your club, email us at*** ***bioadv@pitt.edu\*\*\****

1. This week’s featured club is **HOSA: Future Health Professionals**

Pitt HOSA is a Pre-health Community that aims to build professional and leadership development through competitive medical events, academic seminars, informative guest lectures, volunteering, and research.

We discuss relevant medical issues, prepare you for your undergraduate and graduate healthcare related pursuits, and provide engaging volunteer and research opportunities. Since our charter in 2014, we have successfully competed and won at the annual State and International HOSA Competitions in various medically related fields.

Meetings: Every other Monday from 9-10 pm (next meeting Sept 14)

 <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93807377252>

For more information:

 Email pitthosa@gmail.com

 Facebook: Pitt HOSA

 Instagram: pitthosa

At our Sept 14 meeting, our board members will talk with members in smaller groups and will pair up bigs/littles so that every new member has an upperclassman to ask questions or get general advice from! See you then!

1. We are pleased to announce that the University of Pittsburgh is relaunching a chapter for the**Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science**, or SACNAS ([https://www.sacnas.org/](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sacnas.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cbmcdevitt%40pitt.edu%7C394ea67745d84529397008d85119f17f%7C9ef9f489e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637348519160141573&sdata=PX6o0aYOkl3jTDF5fo5XVs8TewV7aNXlTywGD%2F8UvtE%3D&reserved=0)), with a hope to obtain national recognition within the society.

**The organizers are looking for graduate students to act as mentors and undergraduates to participate.**Please let us know if you have any questions and we can direct you to the organizers. Sign up and learn more [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1be7uRrPKlhfqTF-u_iFg5ZmrU4Hx5asLG90ziTibiSI/viewform?edit_requested=true).

\* Refer to the Sept 1 newsletter for info on the Genetics Counseling Club and the Pinky Swear PACK.

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1. **Study Spaces Around Campus**

Are you looking for a place to study on campus? Click [here](https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/student-learning-living/study-spaces) for a list of more than 60 options. Make sure to follow all signs, including posted occupancy limits and in-use and out-of-use stickers, avoid moving any furniture and clean your space before and after use.

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1. **Study Lab**

Don’t fall behind! Study Lab is offering all of their tutoring and coaching services virtually, beginning Monday, Aug 31. You can make both [coaching and tutoring appointments](https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/schedule-tutoring-online-navigate-student) through the Navigate Student App.

For more information on Study Lab services, click [here](https://www.asundergrad.pitt.edu/study-lab/study-lab-remote-distance-learning-services).

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1. **Stress Free Zone**

Are you feeling stressed or anxious? The Stress Free Zone is a free service to help students learn and practice evidence-based, mind/body stress reduction skills.

The Stress Free Zone is operating remotely this semester, but they are still offering classes! Find their schedule, and register for Mindful Moments, Yoga, and other Workshops [here](https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/shs/stressfree/classes-and-workshops/). You can also follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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1. **Bio Advising on Social Media**

Stay up to date with bio advising news, and other noteworthy campus happenings by following us on social media.

Twitter: @PittBioADV

Facebook: University of Pittsburgh Biological Sciences Advising

Instagram: pittbioadv

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**See you next week!**

**Christine Berliner,**

**Ellen Kelsey,**

**Brenda McDevitt,**

**Jessica Wandelt,**

**Dan Wetzel**

**Lou Yurasits**

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