

FALL 2026 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Cudahy Science, 4th Floorgradschool@luc.eduluc.edu/gradschool

The Graduate School and our partners offer many professional development events specifically tailored to graduate students. Up to date information on registration is available on the Graduate School website at and in weekly Graduate School Announcements emails. Email us with any questions!

INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE WRITING

September 17 1:00 to 2:30PM
Damen Student Center
Rm. 214, LSC

This workshop introduces students to three elements of scholarly writing: organizing around a complex and worthwhile purpose, framing paragraph structure, and reassessing the source relationships. It is open to graduate students from all disciplines.

Facilitator: Michael Meinhardt, Senior Lecturer, Department of English

NETWORKING TO GAIN COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE IN YOUR JOB SEARCH

September 22 1:00 to 2:00PM
Damen Student Center
Room 214 LSC

Networking is a vital part of any modern job search. Join us to learn how you can tap into resources at Loyola—and beyond—to discover connections and build meaningful relationships with industry professionals.

Presented by LUC Career Services and The Graduate School, this session will offer practical guidance on how to:

- Identify and reach out to alumni and industry professionals
- Prepare for networking opportunities such as mentoring, industry events, career fairs, and conferences
- Build and maintain strong professional relationships
- Integrate networking into your long-term career management and job search strategy

Facilitator: Dori L. White, MA, Career Advisor, Masters Students Career Community, Career Services

A DISCUSSION WITH MA ALUM TORINE PASEK – GRIFFIN MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

October 15 1:00 to 2:00PM
Zoom

Torine will share her career path from an MA in History to a top fundraising professional at one of the largest science museums in the world.

She will discuss:

- The steps graduate students can take now to prepare to be career flexible
- Identifying industries and roles that align with your academic expertise
- How to translate and highlight your graduate school skills to employers
- Effective non-academic job search and networking strategies

Guest Speaker: Torine Pasek, MA History '08, Principal Gift Officer, Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, IL

LIFE AFTER GRADUATE SCHOOL: RECENT ALUMNI CAREER PANEL

October 27 1:00 to 2:00 PM
Zoom

Join the Graduate School, Career Services, and a panel of recent alumni who will share real stories about their journeys from graduate students to professionals and share insights on:

- Navigating the current job market, enhancing employability, and landing their first jobs post graduate school
- The importance of networking and leveraging internships
- The skills that are valued by employers

Panelists: Maggie Jones, MA '23, Sociology

Central Development Analyst, The Obama Foundation

Haley Carlton, MA '24, Public/Applied History

Development and Events Coordinator, Richard H. Driehaus Museum

Sawyer Bohannon, MA '25, International Relations and Affairs

Grant Analyst, Dept. of Emergency Management/Regional Security, Cook County Government

Moderator: Brian Campbell, PhD, Associate Director, Graduate Career Community, Career Services



NONPROFIT GRANT WRITING 101: HOW TO CRAFT WINNING PROPOSALS

November 5 11:00AM to 12:30PM
Zoom

The goal of this workshop is to provide graduate students with a broad understanding of Nonprofit Grant Writing. By the end of the workshop, participants will work together to create an actual sample grant proposal that they can use to guide their future endeavors. Open to all master's and PhD students in The Graduate School.

Topics discussed include:

- Exploring different types of grant funding (corporate, governmental, foundation, donors)
- Mechanics of grant applications
- How to find sources of grant funding
- Details of a winning proposal
- The resources and budget needed to deliver the solution
- Putting it all together

Facilitator: Chrissy Swanson, Owner, Christina Swanson Consulting, Inc.

Ms. Swanson has raised over \$80 million in grant funding for her nonprofit clients in recent years

A DISCUSSION WITH PHD ALUMNI JULIE HILVERS & BILL BYRNES – FEEDING AMERICA

November 12 1:00 to 2:00PM
Zoom

Julie and Bill will share how they utilized their PhDs to land non-academic jobs. They will outline their career paths from PhDs in Sociology to top research professionals at the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

They will discuss:

- The steps graduate students can take now to prepare for a career outside the academy
- How to translate academic research into industry relevant skills
- Identifying career paths that leverage your academic expertise
- Strategies for building professional contacts that can enhance job opportunities

Guest Speakers: Julie Hilvers, PhD Sociology '13, Senior Research Manager and Bill Byrnes, PhD Sociology '18, Senior Research Analyst at Feeding America, Chicago, IL

MAKING A STATEMENT

December 3 1:00 to 2:00PM
Zoom

This workshop will provide advice and strategies for crafting persuasive personal, research, and teaching statements that can be used for fellowships, assistantships, and scholarships. Attendees can address specific questions for their own statements and receive individualized feedback.

Workshop Instructor: Heather Sevens, MA, Associate Dean, Student Academic Services, The Graduate School

LoyolaLinked

LoyolaLinked is Loyola University Chicago's new professional mentorship and networking platform for all Loyola alumni and students! It consists of a main hub (entire university) and sub-hubs which include specific schools within the university.

Why Join?

- No need to worry about sending cold emails anymore, everyone on LoyolaLinked is here to support you!
- Meet alumni who have experience in your field of interest

LoyolaLinked: The Graduate School sub-hub

Join this sub-hub to connect with fellow students and alumni from The Graduate School.

<https://loyolalinked.luc.edu/hub/TGS/home-v3>



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