DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE – 8: SCIENTIFIC WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
MICROB-DSE 8: SCIENTIFIC WRITING AND COMMUNICATION	4	2	0	2	Class XII pass with Biology/ Biotechnology/ Biochemistry	NIL

Learning Objectives

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- The main objective of this course is to familiarize the students with the basic principles of science writing and communication. Students will become aware of databases and tools for effective writing and will be empowered to take up careers as research analysts, technical writers, editors of journals and books etc. They will gain insights into the process of scientific publication. They will learn to effectively communicate science to the masses.

Learning outcomes

The Learning Outcomes of this course are as follows:

- Student will be able to demonstrate how to carry out a literature search, and explain various types of scientific writings, structure of scientific manuscript and study design.
- Student will be able to describe various types of journals, the concept of impact factors, steps in publication, and software to detect plagiarism.
- Student will be able to discuss the process of writing grant, and how to communicate effectively on scientific issues
- Student will be able to describe the process of writing research/review articles, the process of presenting scientific data through poster or oral presentation.

Contents:

Theory: **30 hours**

Unit 1: (10 hours)

Scientific literature and study design: Understanding research writing. Conducting literature search, scientific literature databases and gap analysis. Types of contemporary science writing (original research article, review, systematic review, meta-analysis, commentary, and opinion). Structure/outline of a research article. Survey study, questionnaire design, using common statistical tools/software for data analysis and presentation in research articles.

Unit 2: (13 hours)

Publication process: Identifying relevant journals through online tools. Impact factor, H-index, citations, Science Citation Index. Steps of the publication process: preparation of manuscript, textual and graphical abstracts, use of multimedia in scientific writing, editing and proofreading, referencing styles, authorship, ethical requirements in science publication, plagiarism detection tools (URKUND/Turnitin), peer review process, predatory publishers andjournals, open access publication.

Unit 3: (7 hours)

Generating funding for research and elements of communication: Introduction to national (DBT, SERB) and international funding agencies (NIH, Welcome Trust). Basics of grant- writing, and structuring a research proposal for extramural funding.

Practicals: **60 hours**

Unit 1: (15 hours)

Communicating scientific issues to the public: Drafting popular articles (newspaper/ magazines). Multimedia tools for effective writing and communication (creating stories using photos, illustrations, audio, video, animation). Publishing blogs.

Unit 2: (30 hours)

Writing original research / review articles: Drafting abstracts. Hands-on training in the preparation of manuscript text: methods, results, discussion, and conclusion. Presenting data in tables and figures: use of Microsoft Excel. Hands-on training in the use of Mendeley to insert references / citations in an article. Writing a review article based on 10 research papers in 1000 words.

Unit 3: (15 hours)

Presentation of scientific data in conferences/seminars: Designing posters. Training in oral presentations: use of Microsoft Powerpoint. Presenting the research and main findings of recent scientific articles through Journal Club**.**

Suggested Reading (Theory & Practical):

1. Research Methodology and Scientific Writing by C.G. Thomas. 2nd edition. Springer. 2021.
2. Scientific writing and communication by A. Hoffman. 4th edition. Oxford University Press. 2019.
3. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part I: how to get started by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(4):397.
4. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part II: title and abstract by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(6):585.
5. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part III: introduction by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(7):702.
6. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part IV: methods by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(8):817.
7. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part V: results by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(9):945.
8. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part VI: discussion by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(10):1064.
9. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part VII: tables and figures by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(11):1197.
10. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part VIII: references by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(11):1198.
11. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part IX: authorship by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2013. J Clin Epidemiol. 66(12):1319.
12. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part X: choice of journal by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2014. J Clin Epidemiol. 67(1):3.
13. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part XI: submitting a paper by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2014. J Clin Epidemiol. 67(2):123.
14. Effective writing and publishing scientific papers - Part XII: responding to reviewers by D. Kotz and J.W. Cals. 2014. J Clin Epidemiol. 67(3):243.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.