

Biology Mentoring Roundtables (BMRs)

What are the BMRs?

Six times each semester, biology mentors come together with Bepko Learning Center staff and instructors to discuss various topics pertinent to biology mentoring. As detailed below, these required meetings serve several very important purposes for biology mentors, instructors, and Bepko Learning Center staff.

Who attends the BMRs?

Biology mentors (BIOL N212/214, K101, K103, N217, and N261), Bepko Learning Center staff, and course instructors are in attendance at the BMRs. Biology mentors must attend these meetings as a requirement of their mentoring scholarship. Although instructors are not required to attend, they are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the meetings.

What happens during the BMRs?

The BMRs typically convene for an hour and 30 minutes each. Items on the agenda vary depending on the current events and segment of the semester. Example agenda items are provided below.

- General concerns
- Collaborative learning questions
- Study skills assistance
- Interpreting biological figures, models, and animations
- Course breakout groups

Meetings are meant to be developmentally appropriate during the semester with differing topics as the courses progress. No meeting is essentially the same.

When and where are the BMRs held?

Meetings are front-loaded, meaning that three of the five meetings occur within the first four weeks of the 16-week semester. The fourth meeting is usually around week eight and the fifth and final meeting is around week 13. Meetings are held on the second floor of Taylor Hall. A syllabus and schedule is created for each semester and distributed to mentors and instructors.

Why do BMRs exist?

These meetings simply give everyone a chance to “get on the same page” and to continually evolve biology mentoring into a more powerful tool for students. Mentors are able to talk with other mentors about problems, questions, comments, and concerns, as well as share ideas.