



USC

RSCI 590: Directed Research

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Weight: 1 or more Units

Day/Time/Location: By appointment

Catalogue description: This is a demonstration of knowledge in the student's chosen area of interest which results in a product / project, research data, research paper, or portfolio of work, and/or a presentation.

Introduction

To incorporate a more in-depth scholarly pursuit into their education, students in the Regulatory Science program will have the opportunity to participate in a RSCI-590 Directed Research Project. RSCI-590 project should be conducted under the supervision of a faculty member and completed according to the requirement outlined by the Department of Regulatory and Quality Sciences and in consultation with the student's faculty advisor.

Objectives

To provide graduate students in the Regulatory Science program with research opportunities to apply the skills and knowledge they have acquired through their regulatory science coursework.

This course is designed to:

- Provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in their courses to research relating to a specific area of interest
- Allow students to extend their academic experience into areas of personal or professional career interests, to include working with new ideas, organizations, or individuals
- Encourage students to think critically and creatively about academic, professional, and/or social issues and to further develop their analytical and ethical leadership skills
- Provide students with the opportunity to refine research skills and demonstrate their proficiency in written and/or oral communication skills

Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation will be based on deliverables identified by the student and mentor.

The main requirements are:

1. Identification of a Mentor / Professor Advisor
2. Enrollment into RSCI-590
3. Development of an independent internship / research proposal
4. Research data collection
5. Presentation – professional organization, internal research day, or other similar public dissemination of research results.

Required Text

There is no required text for this course.

Supplemental Texts and Multimedia

This course will be supplemented with a variety of source materials including online resources, media outlets, and cinema as it pertains to the student's area of interest and their research objectives. The selected materials are intended to provide students with a broader perspective by rounding out the information acquired by the student during their literature review.

Course Outline

This course will be in the format of one-on-one structured meetings. Students are expected to ask questions and participate in an interactive fashion.

Course Schedule

A schedule of four or more meetings will be established with the faculty mentor to discuss the progress of the project throughout the semester.

Students on the Regulatory Science Research Team *(please consult your faculty supervisor)*

Course Outline:

- Course content is provided by regularly scheduled bi-weekly meetings (virtual or in-person) with the supervising faculty advisor.
- Students will present updates on the progress of their research plan, review methodological approach and preliminary results, and gain critical feedback from the supervising faculty advisor.
- Students are expected to analyze, ask questions and expand the depth of their understanding of their research topic.

Course Schedule:

- A schedule of four or more meetings will be established with the faculty advisor to discuss the progress of the project throughout the semester.
- Students will attend Research Team Meetings which allows for active engagement with peers and faculty in mentored research discussions.
- Students will present oral reports of research progress, relevant readings and/or challenges at scheduled meetings with their faculty advisor.
- Students are responsible to track their project schedule, work flow and the final work.

Description and Assessment of Assignments:

Research Project Definition and Work Plan

- Students must prepare a research project definition plan. The project definition plan serves as the initial effort to define the goals, approach, and scope of the research project.
- Students must submit a written proposal and a research project outline prior to starting the project to the faculty advisor.
- Students must prepare powerpoint presentations for bi-weekly meetings with the faculty advisor. The purpose of the presentations is to assess progress on completing research project deliverables, review technical analysis, review preliminary results, and gain guidance from faculty advisor.

Research Project Reports and Presentations

- Students must submit a final research project report which can be an abstract submitted to a professional and academic conference or a review paper as identified by the student and faculty advisor.
- Students must present their work (such as a paper, presentation, poster or formal publication) at a Regulatory Science Research Team meeting and/or a Journal Club Seminar.

Evaluation and Grading

Evaluation of the research project will be based on deliverables identified by the student and faculty advisor including but not limited to:

- Bi-Weekly Project Presentations
- The Research Project Definition Plan
- The Research Project Work Plan
- Research Team Meeting Attendance
- The Final Project Report and Presentation

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention and Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following *protected characteristics*: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

USC School of Pharmacy
RSCI 590: Directed Research

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

uscsa.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.