Latham Science Engagement Initiative

Chair, Department of Biology

Tina L. Tootle

Program Director, Latham Science Engagement Initiative

Lori Adams (Biology)

Faculty: https://isa.uiowa.edu/people

Website: https://isa.uiowa.edu/programs/latham

The Latham Science Engagement Initiative provides the opportunity to engage highly talented undergraduate students across science disciplines in community outreach. The program enhances research opportunities for selected undergraduate students with the goal to position students with the scientific and creative abilities for graduate work.

The program prepares students to communicate science in the public sphere, work in interdisciplinary settings, and demonstrate the broader impact of scientific research. Students experience the strength of interdisciplinary interactions through exposure to research in other disciplines and work with students in other science majors on group projects. In addition, they develop fluency in communicating to a range of audiences in the community.

Students selected for the program complete two courses, design and implement an outreach project, and participate in an event that highlights their achievements.

The Latham Science Engagement Initiative is administered by the Iowa Sciences Academy in the Department of Biology. For additional information, contact the Latham Science Engagement Initiative Fellowship Program.

Admission

Students must apply for this program on the Latham Science Engagement Initiative website. Requirements include first-year, sophomore, or junior standing at the time of application; a grade-point average of at least 3.00; a minimum of one semester of undergraduate research experience preferred but not required; and an interest in speaking about science in a public forum.

Courses

Latham Science Engagement Initiative Courses

LATH:3000 Latham Fellows: Science Communication Skill Building **2 s.h.**
Introduction to principles and practice of effective science communication across various audiences; development of foundational skills in translating complex scientific concepts, crafting compelling narratives, and designing communication products for public settings; exposure to multiple communication modalities; development of skills for successful collaboration and community-engaged outreach for LATH:3001.

LATH:3001 Latham Fellows: Science Outreach Project **2 s.h.**
Design, implementation, and evaluation of a science outreach project in the community as part of a small interdisciplinary team; application of communication, planning, and project-management skills developed in LATH:3000; hands-on experience in community engagement, collaboration, and real-world problem solving; culmination in a public presentation and written reflection. Prerequisites: LATH:3000. Requirements: Latham Fellow standing.

LATH:4897 Latham Science Engagement Initiative Teaching Internship **1-2 s.h.**
Training and practical experiences in the teaching of science communication and engagement; weekly training session with a PhD instructor or course supervisor, active assistance of the primary instructor in one or more class meetings each week, and/or providing constructive written feedback on classroom exercises; opportunities for leading a training session, co-teaching or lead-teaching one or more classroom exercises; assistance with the development of classroom activities or resources; variation in specific experiences based on course and supervisor needs. Prerequisites: LATH:3000 and LATH:3001.

LATH:4900 Science Communication and Engagement **0 s.h.**
Independent science outreach and engagement project through the Latham Science Engagement Initiative. Prerequisites: LATH:3000 and LATH:3001. Requirements: admission to the Latham Science Engagement Fellows Program.

LATH:4990 Science Communication and Engagement **1-3 s.h.**
Independent science outreach and engagement project through the Latham Science Engagement Initiative. Prerequisites: LATH:3000 and LATH:3001. Requirements: admission to the Latham Science Engagement Fellows Program.