THE BASS CONNECTIONS MODEL: INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH, TEACHING & ENGAGEMENT

Interdisciplinary research teams tackle complex societal challenges defined by three core connections:

1. Across areas of disciplinary expertise
2. Across learner levels (undergraduate, master/professional, doctoral and medical students)
3. Between the academy and the broader world
### Project Teams

- 61 teams in 2021-22: 600 undergraduates; 120 graduate students; 150 faculty leaders; 47 teams w/ external partners

### Courses

- ~ 50 affiliated courses incorporating collaborative, project work
- Collaborative Project Courses Faculty Fellows Program

### Summer Research Experiences

- Story+
- Data+
- Summer Neuroscience Program
- Global Health Student Research Training Program

### Linked Experiences & Capstone Work

- Student research awards
- DukeEngage, DukeImmerse
- Master’s projects
Interdisciplinary Themes

- Race & Society (@SSRI)
- Brain & Society (@DIBS)
- Energy & Environment (@DUEI)
- Global Health (@DGHI)
- Information, Society & Culture (@Rhodes iiD)

+ Bass Connections Open & Margolis teams
THEME LEADERS & ADMINISTRATORS

Brain & Society
Len White (Neurology)
Nicole Lewellyn Schramm-Sapyta (Duke Institute for Brain Sciences)
Laura Howes (Interim)

Energy & Environment
Luana Lima (Nicholas School of the Environment)
Bryan Koen (Duke University Energy Initiative)
Angela Edwards (Duke University Energy Initiative)

Information, Society & Culture
Robert Calderbank (Computer Science; Rhodes iiD)
Phil Stern (History)
Kathy Peterson (Rhodes iiD)

Global Health
Charlie Nunn (Evolutionary Anthropology)
Mary Story (Community & Family Medicine)
Kate Sullivan (Duke Global Health Institute)

Race & Society
Tyson Brown (Sociology)
Anna Gassman-Pines (Public Policy)
Dorothy Nam (Bass Connections)

Health-focused Open Teams
Janet Bettger (Orthopaedic Surgery)
Tiffany Chan (Margolis Center for Health Policy)

Central Program Office & Open Teams
Ed Balleisen (Vice Provost for Interdisc. Studies)
Laura Howes (Director)
Meghan O’Neil (Assistant Director)
Sarah Dwyer (Director, Interdisc. Communications)
GENERAL OPERATING PRINCIPLES FOR TEAMS

• **Length**: 9 to 12 months (with possibility of continuing)

• **Course credit**: Tutorial or research independent study
  • Exceptions: advanced graduate students; no-credit options
  • Workload = 10 hours per week
  • [Grading practices and rubrics](#)

• **Team structure**: Intact team vs. sub-team models

• **Team meetings**:
  • At least once a week
  • [Set time in advance!](#) (try to avoid spanning multiple [class periods](#))
  • Space

• **Project managers**
ELEMENTS OF TEAM SUCCESS

1. **Foundation setting**
   - Start on IRB early
   - Resources to help students get up-to-speed
   - Assignment to jump start the year
   - Team building

2. **Shared, clearly defined goals and roles for the project**
   - Team charter; engage students in goal-setting/problem-solving
   - Expect student initiative/ownership but provide scaffolding
   - Team and individual goals

3. **Clear expectations for participation and engagement**
   - Syllabus guide & Team charter
   - Grading rubric
   - Team ground rules
ELEMENTS OF TEAM SUCCESS

4. Regularly scheduled and well-organized meetings
   • Use time to tackle group issues; not just reporting out/lecture
   • Assign shared ownership of meetings; roles
   • Action items and follow-up

5. Team leader engagement and partnership
   • Team leaders attend meetings
   • Team leaders communicate shared messages to students

6. Layered mentorship/leadership roles for graduate students (or advanced UGs)
   • Project managers
   • Sub-team leads
   • Technical leads

7. Opportunities for reflection and presentation
   • Blogs, journals, portfolios
   • Formal and informal presentations
TEAM EXAMPLE
OUTPUTS & OUTCOMES

• Your team defines success
• Failure (of outcomes) is an option
• Outputs and outcomes are wide-ranging:
  • New service delivery models and processes
  • Publications, policy/white papers
  • Conferences, events, symposium
  • Prototypes
  • Algorithms
  • Data collection/analysis
  • Exhibits
  • Websites
  • Grant submissions
  • Oral histories
BASIC EXPECTATIONS

• Successful recruitment of at least 5 students (inc. undergrads)
• Meet student selection deadlines
• Faculty leaders should be regularly engaged; Project managers should complement not replace faculty engagement
• Inform your theme of any travel involving students
• Notify us of roster changes
• Communicate with us about issues and successes
• Follow standard academic policies
• Stay within budget
• Recognize Bass Connections in publications, conferences, etc.
• Participate in the Bass Connections showcase
• Participate in evaluation survey and report on outcomes
A NOTE ON COMMUNICATIONS

- Refer to “Bass Connections” – not BASS
- Please do recognize the team’s connection to Bass Connections in public facing work
- Welcome to use our logos but take care not to represent the views/recommendations of your team as that of Bass Connections or Duke University as a whole
- Don’t send outreach messages represented as being from “Bass Connections” directly (distinguish by using your team name)
STUDENT RECRUITMENT

• Student applications: Jan. 10 to Feb. 11

• Bass Connections “Virtual Fair”, by Jan. 21:
  • Provide POC for student questions
  • Submit short video (optional)
  • Host a Zoom info session (optional)

• Application review/interviews: Feb. 12 to March 2

• First round offers: by March 4

• Students respond to offers/offers to waitlisted candidates: March 5-30

• All student selection completed: by March 30
STUDENT INQUIRIES: QUESTIONS TO PREPARE FOR

• What types of skills/backgrounds are you seeking for the team?
• What roles do you envision for students? How will students contribute?
• When and how will the team meet?
• Does your project include summer research? If yes: Is it mandatory?
• Does the project include travel? If yes: Will all students have the opportunity to travel? When will travel take place?
• Do you have paid roles for graduate students (e.g., project manager/TAs)?
• Do I have to participate the whole year? What if I’m studying abroad?
• Will I receive credit? What is the time commitment?
SETTING EXPECTATIONS EARLY

• Set a meeting time before forming the team or before student registration
• Consider using interviews to provide students a “realistic job preview”
• Consider a spring kick-off meeting
• Set clear expectations for attendance at meetings and participation on the team
• Don’t oversell
FINANCE

• Funding period: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

• Themes will provide a designated fund code

• Transactions processed by faculty’s home departments

• Students generally set up on department payrolls – standard rates and payroll processing (see hourly rates for all students)
  • May not pay and offer credit for same work
  • Advise discussing offers to PhD students w/student’s DGS/DGSA

• May not charge unbudgeted faculty/staff time w/out approval

• Unspent funds will be returned at end of year; extensions available for continuing work with students

• Be mindful of asking students to incur expenses
RESOURCES

• **Team Resource Center**
• **Grading and Crediting Guidance**
• **Student & Team Leader Policies & Expectations**
• **Project Manager Trainings & Resources**

Grant support: [Office of Campus Research Development](#) or [SOM Office of Research Development](#)

• Duke Libraries:
  • Workshops
  • Subject matter and research specialists
  • Data consulting; Data visualization & digital project support

• **Social Science Research Institute:**
  • [ModU](#) (videos on social science research methods)
  • Data security and management
  • Workshops and custom training/consulting
  • Help desk
UPCOMING EVENTS

• Spring Office Hours
  • Drop in any time with questions about Bass Connections
  • Feb. 11, March 17, April 4 (more info)

• Institutional Review Board Modules
  • Open to all members of the Duke community
  • Satisfies the Human Subjects Certification requirement
  • Feb. 25 or April 8 from 12:00-1:00 (more info)

• Interdisciplinary Project Management
  • Short course for graduate student project managers
  • Summer 2022 (Details forthcoming)

• Leading Boundary-Spanning Teams: What the “science of team science” can teach us about leading and engaging in effective teams
  • Workshop for Bass Connections team leaders led by The Duke CTSI Team Science Core
  • May 6 from 12:00 to 1:30 (Details forthcoming)