



Parker Ruth
 BioE and CSE Sophomore
 Mary Gates Leadership Scholar
 Mary Gates Research Scholar
 psr23@uw.edu

BIOEXPLORE

Bioengineering Research Exploration

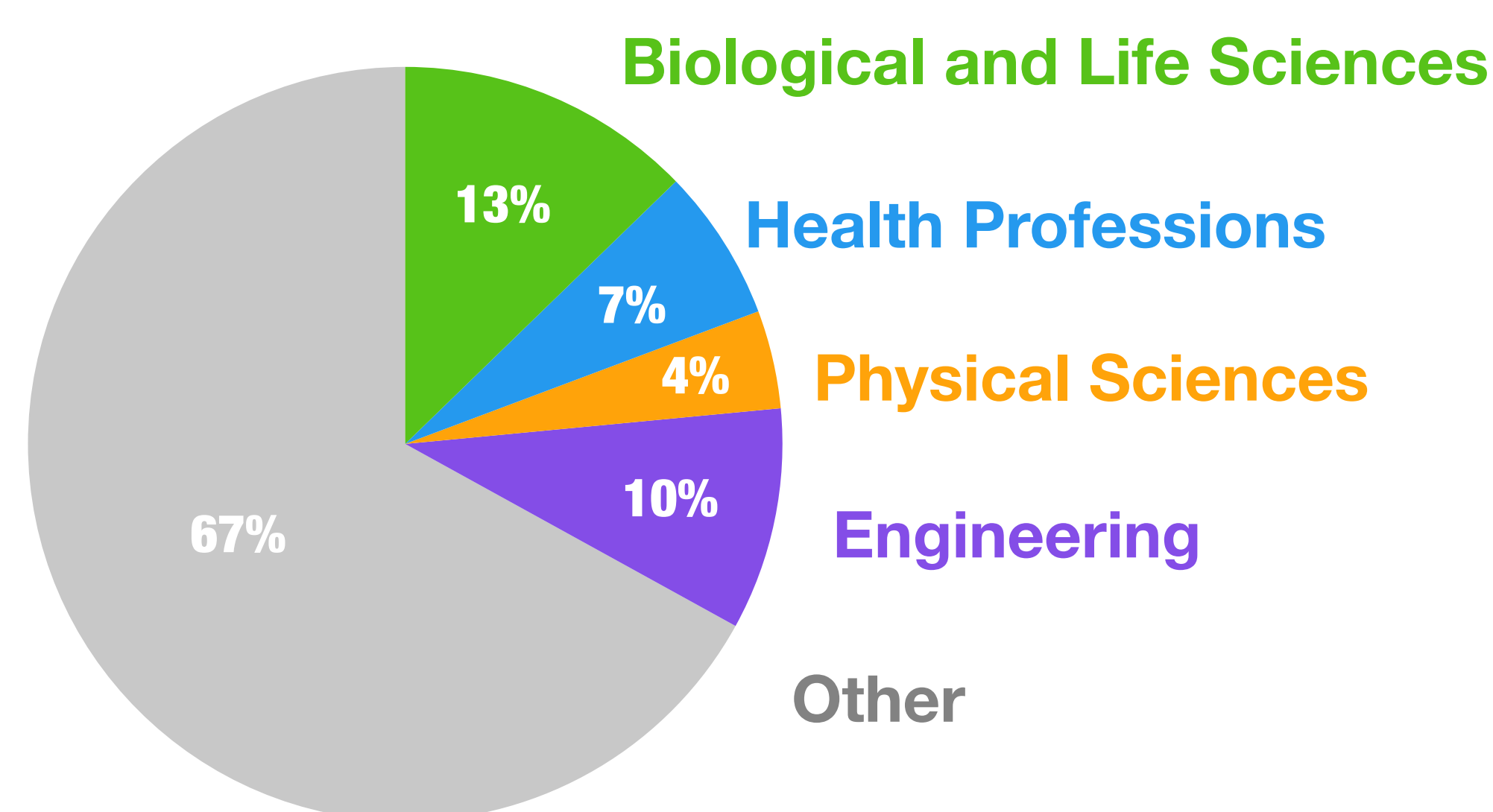


Beginnings

One of the first courses I took at UW was BIOEN 215, Introduction to Bioengineering Problem Solving. In one of our weekly discussion sections, we simulated a journal club meeting by reading and critiquing academic papers. With this inspiration, and support from Dr. Alyssa Taylor, I launched the Bioengineering Journal Club (BJC). After two quarters of journal club meetings, I met with advisors and faculty to discuss how our club could best serve the department moving forward. Synthesizing their feedback, encouragement, and ideas, I worked during the summer to evolve BJC into a new initiative called BioExplore; this name change reflected an increase in the scope and scale of our events and the diversity of the community we serve.

Target Audience

BioExplore's target population extends well beyond the BioE department. In 2017, 20% of the bachelor's degrees conferred by UW were in the biological sciences or health professions, with another 14% in science and engineering, some of whom specialized in biomedical applications. Many of these students will benefit from participating in the UW's research community in and outside of bioengineering.



2017 UW Bachelor's Degrees by Subject
 opb.washington.edu/content/common-data-set

Project Mission

BioExplore aims to provide an inclusive venue for students interested in learning about and sharing their passions for research in bioengineering and related fields, with a focus on providing tools for freshmen and sophomores to get involved in undergraduate research in the biosciences. Especially as the College of Engineering prepares to accept their first cohort of Engineering Undeclared students, BioExplore is perfectly poised to inspire current and prospective students to pursue bioengineering-related research, and connect their interests with UW's world-class research groups.



Students learn about high resolution imaging at a BioExplore Lab Tour

Student Impact

BioExplore hosts research presentations, lab tours to expose students to research in and around campus, and workshops to help students find and apply for research positions. In addition to providing resources for our attendees, BioExplore provides its club officers with an opportunity to build skills in strong verbal and nonverbal communication and event coordination.

“I appreciate BioExplore for how it helped me break in the research world and be where I am today!”

– Sofia, BioE sophomore, now researching tissue engineering with Dr. Deok-Ho Kim

Mentors

I am grateful to benefit from the mentorship and support of Dr. Alyssa Taylor and Mr. Clay Schwenn, who provide encouragement and advice for BioExplore's growth, as well as my own leadership development.



Dr. Alyssa Taylor



Mr. Clay Schwenn

Reflection

BioExplore's mission resonates personally with me because research has been a central part of my Husky experience since Winter 2017. From firsthand knowledge and conversations with peers, I am very familiar with the main mental hurdles that stand in the way of research involvement. In addition to further developing my communications, organizational, and public speaking skills, BioExplore provides me with invaluable experience in building a sustainable organizational strategy. These experiences will strengthen the foundation for my future goals as a researcher, educator, and innovator. I sincerely hope and am actively working to ensure that BioExplore will continue to be a venue for other students to similarly grow as leaders in the undergraduate research community.

Acknowledgements

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