



ComSciCon

The Communicating Science Workshop for Graduate Students

Contact

Email: info@comscicon.org

Twitter: [@comscicon](https://twitter.com/comscicon)

ComSciCon is a national workshop series organized by graduate students, for graduate students, focused on leadership and training in science communication. **Our goal is to empower young scientists to become leaders in their field**, propagating research results to broad and diverse audiences and organizing others to amplify the message.

Since 2013, we have held 14 workshops directly impacting about 700 graduate students from around the country. 9 more ComSciCon events are planned for 2017. Our programming includes:

- A **flagship annual conference series**, ComSciCon, for future leaders in science communication.
- A series of **regional and specialized ComSciCon workshops** organized by ComSciCon alumni nationwide.
- An **online community** to support our network of participants, centered on <http://comscicon.com/>.

We offer our workshops completely free of charge to graduate students, even providing travel grants and accommodations through the generous support of our sponsors. We are actively cultivating institutional partnerships to support, sustain, and expand our programming.

About ComSciCon

Our Attendees

The graduate students who attend ComSciCon are diverse in their backgrounds, interests, and ambitions. More than 5000 students from science, engineering, law, medicine, and beyond have applied to attend our past events. Our alumni have gone onto careers in academia, science writing, journalism, industry, and more.



Our Workshops

ComSciCon workshops, both national and local, are a distinctive combination of carefully innovated, crafted, and refined programming elements:

Expert Panels: Experts from all facets of science communication join attendees to discuss topics ranging from science in policy to communicating using multimedia.

Write-a-thon: Before ComSciCon, attendees draft an original piece for publication on a topic they're passionate about. Students peer-edit their work and meet with invited speakers to get expert feedback.



Networking: To augment the strong and diverse network of ComSciCon student alumni, we hold networking sessions where attendees mingle with speakers and invited guests from local companies and institutions.

Poster Session: Attendees present their own initiatives in science communication in a digital poster session. On super-sized interactive screens, attendees show web, video, and other multimedia highlighting new ideas and past successes. A growing list of original projects and collaborations have spawned from these sessions.

Community Outreach: Graduate student attendees directly impact the ComSciCon host community by organizing and participating in free public outreach events at venues like local museums.

K12 session: A special session brings K12 teachers to ComSciCon to connect with graduate students and create lessons to be published online that directly connect current research to K-12 curricula.

We have held flagship national workshops in Cambridge, MA in the June of 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, with the next flagship program taking place in June of 2017. ComSciCon specialized and regional workshops have already been organized in Cambridge (MA), Chicago (twice), Cornell/Upstate New York (twice), the North Carolina Research Triangle (twice), San Diego, the Pacific Northwest (Seattle), and at the National Association of Science Writers' annual meeting.

Long Term Goals

- **Sustainable flagship workshop:** Supporting our flagship annual national workshop in perpetuity as an institution supporting young leaders in science communication.
- **Regional & specialized workshops:** Initiating and sponsoring new workshop series organized by ComSciCon graduate student alumni in regions around the country and in association with professional society annual meetings.
- **BiteScis K12 initiative:** Uniting STEM graduate students with K12 teachers nationwide to produce classroom activities and materials focused on state-of-the-art research. Since 2014, we have used ComSciCon flagship workshops to initiate these grad student-teacher collaborations.

Organization

Founded by Harvard University and MIT students associated with Astrobites (<http://astrobites.com/>), the ComSciCon national workshop is organized by a volunteer team of more than two dozen graduate students at universities nationwide. Each year, we welcome recent ComSciCon alumni into the committee.

In 2016, the following sponsoring institutions supported out ComSciCon 2016 national workshop. Our local and specialized workshops have been supported by a diverse collaboration of institutions across the country.

