

Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 7

How can you Spring into Spring 2021?

Are you still writing 2020 on things instead of 2021? It's hard to believe we are nearly half-way through January already! We look forward to being back with our students.

Here are a few reminders to help you spring smoothly into the Spring 2021 semester!

Academic Calendars

Make sure to review ALL of the Spring 2021 academic calendars to ensure you understand the dates & deadlines for Block 1, Block 2 and the 15-week semester. Each "part-of-term" has its own calendar as does the exam schedule. You will want to look at each if you know you have a mix of Block and 15-week courses. [Spring 2021 calendars](#)

Payment Deadlines & Schedule Cancellations

You can review the Cashier's website for information on how to make payments and the deadlines to prevent your schedule from being cancelled. The [Payment Deadlines & Schedule Cancellation page](#) numerous links to help you with all aspects of paying your tuition and fees. If you are considering using a Payment Plan, please consult the [Tuition Payment Plans](#) website for details and review the [plan schedule](#) for details. More information about visiting or contacting the Cashier is on their main website: <https://financialservices.ecu.edu/cashiers-office/>

Register for Classes ASAP!

If you are not already registered for Spring 2021, please do it ASAP! Registration help is [here](#). Remember, graduate students do not need PINs.

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Looking for More Activities?

[Pirate 411 Newsletter](#)

Thesis Or Dissertation Upload Deadline

This date is always in the Academic Calendar. Click on the [Blue Link](#) on the top of any academic calendar and you will be taken to the Application and Processing Calendar.

Spring 2021 - April 22
Summer 2021 - July 16
Fall 2021 - December 1
Spring 2022 - April 21

[Thesis/Dissertation Help](#)





STUDENT EVENTS

Prepare Now for Spring Career Fairs

The ECU Career Services office is already busy planning career events for Spring 2021. Make sure to put these dates in your calendar and then watch their website and your email for announcements about each specific event. Here are some helpful reminders

- Bookmark the Career Services [website](#) so you have easy access every time you open your browser
- Make sure your account is active in [Handshake](#). If the Career Fairs are virtual instead of in person, you will likely need to use the Handshake portal to visit employers and make appointments for one-on-one interviews.
- Begin working on your resume! The [Career Resource Guide](#) is posted online and has excellent tools and tips!
- Practice your interview skills. You can utilize resources from Career Services such as [Interview Stream](#) but also you can make individual appointments with the [Speech Communication Center](#) to learn how to polish your professional speaking style.
- Look at all the resources available to you from Career Services. Scroll to the bottom of their [main website](#) for more online tools.

Spring 2021 Career Fairs

Virtual Pirate Nurse Job Fair

4:00 - 6:00 PM
February 8, 2021
Virtual in [Handshake](#)

Virtual Engineering & Technology Career Fair

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
February 17, 2021
Virtual in [Handshake](#)

Virtual Job & Internship Fair

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
February 24, 2021
Virtual in [Handshake](#)

Virtual Education Job Fair

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
March 17, 2021
Virtual in [Handshake](#)



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

JAN
19 Classes Begin for 15-week and Block 1 classes (8w1)
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)

JAN
21 Last day for schedule changes for 8w1 (Block 1)
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)

JAN
25 Last day for schedule changes for 15-week courses
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

JAN
27 Schedules at risk for cancellation if bill not paid in full by 5:00 PM today.
[Important Dates Calendar](#)

JAN
31 Last day to enroll or waive out of Student Health Insurance Plan for Spring 2021
[Important Dates Calendar](#)

FEB
17 Last day to withdraw from Block 1 (8w1) courses without grads by 5:00 PM
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)

MAR
10 Spring Festival - No Classes
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

MAR
11 Classes begin for Block 2 (8w2)
[Academic Calendar - 8w2](#)

MAR
25 Last day to withdraw from 15-week courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM.
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

MAR
26 Registration for Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 semesters begins at 1:00 PM today for graduate students
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

APR
2-3 State Holiday - No Classes
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

APR
27 Classes end for 15-week classes
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

APR
27 Last day to submit work for removal of incompletes earned in Spring 2020
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

APR
28 Classes end for Block 2 (8w2) courses.
[Academic Calendar - 8w2](#)

This page is not the official academic calendar and errors on this page will not be justification for missing deadlines. Students should always refer to the official academic calendars. Students should make sure to review the calendar for the appropriate term: 8w1 (Block 1), 8w2 (Block 2) or 15-week (full semester).

All official academic calendars are always posted [here](#).



IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR SPRING

Apply to Graduate Now

Students should [apply to graduate](#) at least 1 semester prior to the term they wish to graduate. Thus, if you are graduating with a degree or certificate for Spring 2021, you should definitely apply to graduate now. If you are graduating in Summer 2021, you should apply to graduate also. This helps you, your advisor, and the Registrar make sure you are taking the right courses. If you are missing something, you could take it in Summer 2021 possibly and not delay your graduation. If you are earning a degree and a certificate, you must complete a graduation application for EACH credential separately. If you have any questions, make sure to talk with your advisor and/or your graduate program director now so you can plan your final semesters well in advance. [Help with applying to graduate](#) is on the Registrar's website.

Funding for Spring and beyond

There may be open assistantship positions for Spring, so if you are looking, keep looking! Spring Semester is also a good time to look for campus-based funding for Fall 2021 - Spring 2022. You can review the Graduate School's [Campus Employment website](#) to learn more about campus employment, assistantships, and our GradFunding mailing list. Don't forget to review our [Assistantships](#) website to learn more about the [Student Affairs Graduate Assistantship Recruitment Program](#), as well. Each office offering a position will be able to tell you the salary and whether the position requires an on-campus presence in Greenville. When you see a job ad, contact the individuals named in the advertisement to ask these and any other questions.

Finishing a Thesis or Dissertation

It will be helpful to plan Spring 2021 far in advance if you plan to submit your master's thesis or doctoral dissertation so you can graduate in May, 2021. The [Thesis/Dissertation website](#) on the Graduate School's website is your first step for finding all of the information you need. Ultimately, you will upload your thesis or dissertation into our Vireo online portal. **The deadline for uploading your document for a Spring 2021 graduation is April 22, 2021.** From the Thesis/Dissertation website, you can click on "[Vireo Thesis and Dissertation LibGuide with Instructions](#)." Once there, you will find numerous tabs with information including Required Elements, Basic Formatting and FAQs. The Required Elements page has Microsoft Word templates for the required sections of the document. There are electronic forms you will need as well. They are listed on the bottom of the [Thesis/Dissertation website](#).

New Student Orientation

If you are a new graduate student in Spring 2021, make sure to review our online orientation course in Canvas! You must be enrolled in classes to have access to Canvas, so get enrolled and then check it out! <https://canvas.ecu.edu/>



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



coming soon...

AN NCFDD PODCAST



Introducing Professor-ing, a podcast made for academics, by academics.

We are so excited to share our newest NCFDD resource, available on your favorite podcast apps on January 27, 2021! Co-hosts Badia Ahad-Legardy, PhD and Anthony Ocampo, PhD share the R&R. The real and real-er about life in academia.

SNEAK PEEK: [Here](#) is a teaser to tide you over until the first episode releases!



Professor-ing is also available on [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Google Play!](#)

Want to be notified when the first episode is released? Fill out [this quick form](#).

Don't forget that all graduate students are given an account to the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity! You can activate your account at any time and have access to incredible materials that will enhance your graduation education experience - even if you do not have a career path leading you towards becoming a faculty member.

There is a great 14-day writing challenge that could help any student make significant progress on a writing project whether for a thesis, dissertation, class project or culminating portfolio! There are also FREE webinars, reading materials, and MORE! Activate your account [here!](#) You must use your ECU email address to activate your account.

Check out the new PODCAST they have announced too!



Statistics Workshops - Grad Students Welcome!

Please attend any or all of these statistics workshops. They all begin at 1:00 PM and all are accessed via Webex: <https://ecu.webex.com/meet/bianh>

- 2/4 - SPSS Introduction
- 2/10 - R Introduction
- 2/18 - Multiple Linear Regression
- 2/24 - Mediation & Moderation
- 3/4 - Nvivo Basic
- 3/17 - Getting Started in Research & How to Plan a Meaningful and realistic thesis or dissertation
- 3/25 - Structural Equation Modeling
- 3/31 - Using Excel in Data Management & Data Analysis
- 4/8 - Qualtrics
- 4/14 - Mixed research design
- 4/22 - Logistic Regression

[REGISTER HERE](#) for one or all!



SUPPORT SERVICES CONTINUED

Getting Help with Taxes

We know that many graduate students are employed and attending graduate school with various methods of funding - loans, assistantships, scholarships, etc. This can make your federal & state income tax situation more complicated. There are resources for you to use to help ensure you file accurately each April.

The IRS does have free tax help. You can search to find out if there are free services near you: [IRS Free Tax Help](#)

Some online tax preparing software offers free support as well. Make sure to evaluate these companies to ensure you are dealing with a reputable firm. One such company is TurboTax® [Official Site: File Taxes Online, Tax Filing Made Easy \(intuit.com\)](#)

There are also blog resources online you can review to learn more about your taxes and how to get help. Here is one example: [How to Prepare Your Grad Student Tax Return \(Tax Year 2019\) Personal Finance for PhDs \(pfforphds.com\)](#).

Pay Attention to COVID Announcements and Procedures

A lot has happened related to COVID in the past month and it's important that you review the university's updates so you are prepared for when you return to Greenville and campus activities. Here's a reminder for the websites you should review regularly.

[Coronavirus Update Page](#)

[Fast-Facts about the Spring Testing Plan for Students](#)

[Return of Pirate Nation website](#)

Feeling overwhelmed? Make sure to get help from the [Center for Counseling and Student Development](#). Telehealth and video services available! Please reach out if you need help.

Questions about symptoms, wanting to get tested or health care related questions, contact the [Student Health Service](#).

What Do I Do if I am struggling academically due to employment, illness or personal & family issues?

Please do not struggle alone! Many times, graduate students reach out for advice after they are on probation or dismissed for poor academic performance. We can't always help with negative academic consequences after the semester has ended.

Instead, please reach out to resources if you are having academic difficulty during a semester. It's appropriate to start with your course instructors to determine if assistance is available. However, there are other campus offices that are here to help you negotiate tough situations so we can work with you to try to avoid negative academic consequences if at all possible.

First, reach out to the [Dean of Students](#). They can listen & provide the most appropriate path for you to take to try to improve your situation. Second, you can also contact the Graduate School ([Dr. Cox](#)) for advice about how to handle things. But please do not wait until AFTER a semester has ended to reach out for help. Many times we have solutions!