

Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 9

Early Registration for Summer and Fall Semesters opens March 26

Be ready to register for 1:00 PM on 3/26/2021

Current graduate students, who are not on academic probation, are able to register for Summer or Fall 2021 courses at 1:00 PM on Friday, March 26th. Students who are on academic probation can register after final grades are reviewed by the Graduate School after commencement day in May.

It's time now to make appointments with your graduate program director or academic advisor so you can confirm the courses you should register for during the various Summer 2021 terms and the Fall 2021 semester.

You can remind yourself how to register for courses through the Banner Self-Service portal by visiting the [Registrar's website](#). The Registration website has helpful information to get you started and also has a [PDF document with step-by-step instructions](#). Remember, graduate students at ECU do not need to use PIN numbers.

If you have any holds, it is your responsibility to clear them prior to trying to register. This will likely require you to contact relevant offices and clear up the issues. Most commonly - paying a balance due, paying a parking citation, making sure your final transcripts have been sent to the Graduate School during your first semester, or completing required orientations, if applicable. Students who are on academic probation must wait to register until after final grades are submitted the day after graduation day each term. You will receive notice from the Graduate School when your grades have been reviewed and when your probation hold will be lifted. Probation holds are not lifted early, so we appreciate your patience as we review grades. Read more about holds [here](#).

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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 OPPORTUNITIES

English Language Support Available for Current Graduate Students

If you are a current degree-seeking graduate student whose first language was not English and believe you need support for the English needed for your academics, please reach out to the ECU Language Academy (ECULA). Current students may be able to attend courses to help with language skills without cost. Contact the program director, Nicole Ianieri to discuss your specific needs at ianierin18@ecu.edu.

Are You Engaged?

Make sure to review the events & opportunities in the Engage portal on a regular basis. You will find student organization events, Graduate & Professional Student Senate events, and more!

Log In Today!

[Engage.ecu.edu](https://engage.ecu.edu)

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>

- 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!

Need Career Information? Looking for Campus Employment?

Make sure to activate your Handshake account and take advantage of all the Career Services has to offer!

[Handshake Career Portal](#)
[Career Services website](#)



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

MAR
5 Last day of classes for Block 1 (8w1) courses that meet before 5:00 PM
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)

APR
2-3 State Holiday (no classes)
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

MAR
8 Last day of classes for Block 1 (8w1) courses that meet after 5:00 PM
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)

APR
12 Last day to withdraw from Block 2 (8w2) courses by 5:00 PM
[Academic Calendar - 8w2](#)

MAR
8-9 Block 1 Exams (8w1)
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)

APR
22 Last day to upload a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation for Spring 2021 graduation
[Vireo Upload Information](#)

MAR
10 Spring Festival (no classes)
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)
[Academic Calendar - 8w1](#)
[Academic Calendar - 8w2](#)

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

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

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

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

APR
28 Classes end for Block 2 (8w2) courses. Reading Day for 15-week courses
[Academic Calendar - 8w2](#)
[Academic Calendar - 15 week](#)

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

MAY
7 Review the Commencement Website often to get updates RSVP required by April 9th!
[Commencement Website](#)

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](#).



GRAD P.I.R.A.T.E. TALKS

SPRING 2021

GRAD PIRATE™ TALKS

PROMOTING INCLUSION THROUGH RESEARCH, ACTION, TEACHING, AND EDUCATION

A special multidisciplinary seminar series organized by ECU's graduate student body focused on bringing social justice issues to light and educating the Pirate Community at large on how race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, and more affect the lives of our Pirate Nation and our nation as a whole.



Grad PIRATE Talks are back for another semester of interesting and thought provoking talks filled with loads of information and insights on topics related to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Join us this Spring as our graduate students prepare to launch their first session of the Grad PIRATE Talk series. The sessions will go live via WebEx, every other Tuesday at 6pm, beginning Tuesday, February 16th, 2021.

Updates will be provided via email, Facebook and Instagram with login details and more.



GRAD PIRATE TALKS
WEBSITE





ACADEMIC UPDATES

In State Residency for Tuition

All [residency decisions](#) are made by the Residency Determination Service ([RDS](#)) which is part of the UNC System Office. If you are currently rated as out-of-state and plan to file for in-state residency, you should do this after the 366th day you have lived in the state of NC. The first major criteria for being listed as in-state is that you have lived in the state of NC for at least 1 full year. Therefore, if you apply for residency prior to your 366th day, you will not meet that criteria and will not be approved. Make sure you review the [RDS website](#) carefully so you submit all the documentation you can to demonstrate residency. The [FAQ](#) is helpful as are the procedures for appeal and reconsideration.

Dissertation & Thesis Info

All master's theses and doctoral dissertations are submitted to the Graduate School using the VIREO online submission system. The [Thesis-Dissertation website](#) has all the information you need about deadlines as well as the link to VIREO its LibGuide. Please review these websites now so you are fully informed as you prepare your document & get ready to upload it. There are page templates on the LibGuide under the [Required Elements tab](#).

DocuSign® Forms Expire!

The Graduate School has converted several paper and PDF forms to DocuSign® electronic documents. This includes the Master's Thesis Pre-Research Form, the signature pages for theses and dissertations, and the Advancement to Candidacy Form. All of these forms are found on the Forms website of the Graduate School website. Many of these forms are generated by the student and then passed along electronically to faculty who have to also sign them. It's important to note there is a 45-day expiration date for a DocuSign® form. If the people who need to sign it do not sign it within 45 days, the document will expire and the whole thing will have to be done again. There is a cost to the university for this (not the student). So, please help us control our costs by contacting your faculty BEFORE you generate the form to let them know that it is coming to their email Inbox. Then, remind them regularly to sign it so that you do not reach the 45th day expiration deadline.

Withdrawals

Students who believe they need to withdraw from one course or all courses should consult with the [Dean of Students](#), their graduate program director, and the [Office of Financial Aid](#) prior to submitting the request to the [Registrar](#). Important financial factors may come into play!

SPRING 2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

Jan. 27	Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center 10th Anniversary Ceremony This celebration features Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, keynote speaker, and presentation of the Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Advocacy Award to the Department of Sociology. Noon • A Virtual Event
Jan. 27	Queer and Trans People of Color (QTPOC) This informational organizing meeting is for those interested in exploring issues impacting students at the intersections of race, ethnicity, sexuality and gender. 4 p.m. • Main Campus Student Center, Room 307
Jan. 27	Coffee House Coffee House begins for the semester. Registration is required via Engage. 6 p.m. • Main Campus Student Center, Room 253
Feb. 1	Opening Reception for "All Black Lives Matter" Exhibit Presented in celebration of Black History Month. 5:30 p.m. • Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center
Feb. 8	Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (Presented in partnership with the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center) 11 a.m.-2 p.m. • Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (Main Campus Student Center, Suite 100)
Feb. 8	Kiki Twenty-five years after the 1990s cultural touchstones such as Madonna's music video "Vogue" and the documentary <i>Paris Is Burning</i> , a new and very different generation of LGBTQ youth in New York City have formed an artistic activist subculture named the Kiki Scene. This film is presented in celebration of Black History Month. Registration is required via Engage. 6 p.m. • Black Box Theater (Main Campus Student Center)
Feb. 12	Love Is Love: A Vision of Love for All 10 a.m.-2 p.m. • Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center
Feb. 25	Jazz & Friends National Day of School and Community Readings Join us in supporting our transgender and non-binary youth. 4:30 p.m. • Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center
March 1	"To Survive on This Shore" A project by Jess T. Dugan and Vanessa Fabbre, "To Survive on This Shore" features photographs of and interviews with transgender and gender nonconforming older adults. 5:30 p.m. (Opening Reception) • Main Campus Student Center, Room 249
March 15	Becoming More Visible This 2016 documentary shines a humanizing light on the different stories of four fearless young transgender adults, both their struggles and their triumphs, and showcases the importance of having a steady support system. This film is presented as part of Transgender Visibility Month. Registration is required via Engage. 6 p.m. • Black Box Theater
March 31	Trans Day of Visibility Luncheon Registration is required via Engage. Noon • Main Campus Student Center, Room 249
April 12	5B 5B tells a remarkable story of courage and compassion in the first AIDS ward unit in the United States. Registration is required via Engage. 6 p.m. • Black Box Theater
April 26	Lesbian Visibility Day Luncheon Registration is required via Engage. Noon • Main Campus Student Center, Room 249
April 28	Stress Relief Study Break 11 a.m.-2 p.m. • Dr. Jesse R. Peel LGBTQ Center
May 7	Lavender Launch 2021 Lavender Launch is an annual celebration of our LGBTQ and ally graduates. 5:30 p.m. • Black Box Theater

Individuals requesting accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should contact the ADA coordinator at least 48 hours prior to the event at 252-737-1018 or ada-coordinator@ecu.edu.



ECU

DR. JESSE R. PEEL
LGBTQ CENTER

SPRING 2021 EVENT CALENDAR

lgbtq.ecu.edu • 252-737-2514



COMMENCEMENT INFO

Chancellor Sends Email About Spring 2021 Graduation (Commencement) Ceremonies

On Friday, March 5th, the Chancellor sent an email to the ECU Community announcing plans for graduation ceremonies on May 7th. Here is the text of that email. Underline and bold emphasis added for this article.

East Carolina University intends to host multiple in-person university ceremonies at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on **May 7** to recognize and celebrate the Class of 2021.

ECU plans to host multiple versions of the university ceremony to ensure compliance with all federal and UNC System guidelines regarding the evolving nature of COVID-19. Masks will be required by all graduates and attendees and social distancing guidelines will be strictly enforced.

Despite the easing of some restrictions by the North Carolina Governor's Office, ECU will not host any other in-person college or department ceremonies for spring 2021 (e.g. College of Education, School of Music, etc.).

All ECU spring 2021 graduates, including those earning undergraduate, masters, doctoral and professional degrees, will be required to complete an RSVP form in order to participate in the commencement ceremony. Any graduating students who have not submitted an RSVP by April 9 will NOT be able to participate in the spring ceremony.

ECU is utilizing the required RSVP process at the direction of the Health Department to ensure safety protocols are followed. Students who have completed the RSVP will receive emailed instructions in April regarding how to submit a request to secure tickets for guests to attend the ceremony. The number of guests permitted for each student will be dependent upon how many RSVP responses are received. The university continues developing these plans and more details will be shared with graduates and families as well as faculty and staff as plans are finalized.

Note: A significant increase in COVID-19 cases in our area would require the university to reevaluate plans for in person ceremonies, regardless of how close the event date may be. ECU's spring and fall classes of 2020 will be able to participate in the May 2021 ceremony and additional information will come from the ECU Alumni Association during the week of March 8-12.

For questions about Commencement visit <http://commencement.ecu.edu> or email commencement@ecu.edu.