

Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 10

Join Us at RCAW 2021 - Virtually Research & Creative Achievement Week is Fully Online

We look forward to seeing you for RCAW 2021, virtual edition! This year, we will hold RCAW using an online portal called **Symposium by ForagerOne** as our hosting platform.

Starting April 3rd, you will be able to see all presentations (oral and poster, graduate & undergraduate) by clicking [this link](#). From there, click on "presentations" at the top of the page. You will be able to filter by topic of interest. On April 5th and 7th, please join us in supporting students making oral presentations by clicking on the "live sessions" tab and then the associated WebEx session link. Please see the last page of this newsletter for two graphics which will help you identify the right places to click.

You can review the RCAW website for more information!

<https://blog.ecu.edu/sites/rcaw/>

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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](#)





IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT DEADLINE

May 7th Commencement Ceremony Has a Deadline to RSVP!

On Friday, March 5th, the Chancellor sent an email to the ECU Community announcing plans for graduation ceremonies on May 7th. 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.

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.

MAJOR CHANGE FOR PHD AND EDD students!!

Previously, PhD & EdD students could not "walk" in a ceremony if their dissertation had not been approved by the Graduate School by the date of the ceremony. For **Spring 2021 ONLY**, there will be an exception. All PhD or EdD students who plan to graduate in May or Summer may "walk" in the May ceremony. You will not receive your diploma if you did not have your dissertation approved by May 7. Those that have their dissertation approved by May 7 will get their diploma that day. Summer students can also choose to walk in the December ceremony after their official graduation. You will get an email from the Graduate School and **YOU MUST RESPOND BY THE DEADLINE IN THE EMAIL TO PARTICIPATE. NO EXCEPTIONS.** You must RSVP as instructed above to the main ceremony **AND** you must respond to the Graduate School email.

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



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

MAR 2-3	State Holiday (no classes) Academic Calendar - 15 week	MAY 7	Commencement Ceremony (you must have RSVPd to participate) Commencement Website
APR 9	Last day to RSVP to participate in May 7 commencement ceremony on campus Commencement Website	MAY 17	Summer Session 1 and 11-week Summer Terms Begin Summer Academic Calendar
APR 22	Last day to upload a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation for Spring 2021 graduation Vireo Upload Information	MAY 18	Last Day to Make Changes To Your Schedule for SS1 or 11-week terms Summer Academic Calendar
APR 27	Last day to submit work for removal of incompletes earned in Spring 2020 Academic Calendar - 15 week	MAY 31	State Holiday - No Classes Summer Academic Calendar
APR 27	Classes end for 15-week classes Academic Calendar - 15 week	JUNE 22-23	Mid-Summer Break Summer Academic Calendar
APR 27	Last day to withdraw from 15-week courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM. Academic Calendar - 15 week	JUNE 24	Summer Session 2 classes begin. Summer Academic Calendar
APR 28	Classes end for Block 2 (8w2) courses. Reading Day for 15-week courses Academic Calendar - 8w2 Academic Calendar - 15 week	JUNE 25	Last Day to make Changes to SS2 schedules Summer Academic Calendar

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! The deadline for Spring 2021 has been extended to April 27, 2021.



OPPORTUNITIES & UPDATES

AHEC Scholars Program Accepting Applications

Eastern Area Health Education Center is now accepting applications by May 15 for the 2021-2023 cohort of the North Carolina AHEC Scholars Program. Please feel free to share this email with your students who meet the qualifications listed below.

The NC AHEC Scholars Program was developed in 2018 to recruit, train, support, and inspire a diverse group of students from various healthcare disciplines committed to both community service and the transformation of healthcare. This program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students as long as they are enrolled in a health professions program and can commit to the full two years.

- Two-year program (August-May each year)
- 40 didactic hours and 40 clinical hours for a total of 80 hours per year (combination of virtual and in person with social distancing as conditions allow)
- \$1,000 stipend per year (\$2,000 total)

Our emphasis will be on recruiting students from underrepresented minorities, disadvantaged/rural backgrounds, and first-generation college families with the primary goal of improving diversity and distribution of all health professions in eastern North Carolina. Scholars will have the chance to network with peers and professionals both locally and statewide.

Students can take this [short three-question survey](#) to help determine their eligibility.

Applications with letters of recommendation are due by May 15, 2021 to ncahecscholars@ecu.edu.

Click here for more information: <https://www.easternahec.net/student-services-housing/nc-ahec-scholars/>

Questions about the NC AHEC Scholars Program at Eastern AHEC may be referred to Director of Student Services Blair Savoca at savocab19@ecu.edu or 252-744-5214.

Keep Up With COVID-19 Updates

Make sure to review the COVID-19 Vaccine information ECU has posted on the web at <https://news.ecu.edu/coronavirus-updates/vaccine/>. You will find explanations of the vaccines, which groups are eligible and how to determine which group you are in. You can join the ECU Wait List to be called when vaccine is un-used at the end of the day to determine if you can rush in to use up vaccines left at the end of the day when they are going to expire. Keep up the great work - wear your mask, wash your hands, and wait 6 feet apart....and now get your vaccine, too!



REGISTRATION & FINANCIAL DEADLINES FOR SUMMER & FALL

Try To Register by April 15th for Summer & Fall

The Graduate School strongly recommends all continuing students register for Summer and Fall classes by April 15th. Early registration helps ECU plan, but most importantly it helps YOU plan - your employment schedule, your financial obligations, and other obligations such as family or child care. Registration is now open, so talk to your advisor and get it done TODAY! Students on academic probation will have to wait to register until after Finals Week when grades are checked. You will receive an email with information about your status shortly after finals week ends. For more information on how to register, please review the [Registrar's Helpful Guide](#).

Review Payment Deadlines

The Cashier's website is always the place to go to look for information on tuition and fees and the deadlines for payment. For a listing of tuition and fees, navigate to <https://financialservices.ecu.edu/tuition-fees/> and click on the category that applies to you. Scroll down on this page, and you will find links to billing, payments, and most importantly, the "[Important Dates](#)" calendars. These calendars tell you the payment deadlines; if you miss the deadline, you are at risk of having your schedule cancelled. Do not use non-payment as a means to drop all of your courses, though. There are many reasons why courses do not drop for non-payment and if you leave your schedule intact but intend to not participate, you will still be responsible for the tuition and fees billed for those courses. **It is always the student's responsibility to ensure your schedule is accurate, or that your courses are all dropped if you do not wish to attend.** To drop all the courses in a semester, you must drop them before the semester starts and email the Registrar at regis@ecu.edu to indicate you wish to drop all courses. At times, students cannot drop the final course on their schedule - only the Registrar can do that. If you try to drop and one course won't drop, then you must email the Registrar to request a drop of that last course. You will be billed for courses you do not drop, so make sure to check your schedule regularly.

Apply to Graduate for Summer or Fall

When you apply to graduate, the Registrar reviews your record and looks for missing courses or credits. You can apply to graduate 1 semester prior to your graduation semester. All Summer and Fall graduates should [apply to graduate](#) now.



RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT WEEK HELP

15th Annual Research & Creative Achievement Week
April 5th-8th Student Center

EXPAND Your Knowledge

Welcome to Research and Creative Achievement Week!
Hosted on Symposium by ForagerOne

Welcome to the 2021 Virtual Research and Creative Achievement Week!

* Click on "Presentations" to access ALL presentations – Starting April 3rd

Symposium | Home | Welcome Page | Presentations | **Live Sessions** | Ministry Events

Live Sessions

Graduate Oral - Social Sciences

Session Time
Monday, April 5, 2021
9:00am - 9:30am EDT

Session Access Link
<https://ecu.webex.com/meet/SNCURCS1>

Description
Presenting Students (in order of presentations):

* Click on "Live Sessions" to access all oral Q&A sessions – April 5th and 7th

** Click on WebEx session access link to attend a specific Q&A session – April 5th and 7th