

Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 11

Important Date to Keep Yourself Organized

Knowing the university's calendars can help you stay in control

Each semester, there are two places where students should check for important dates: the [Academic Calendar](#) and the [Cashier's Important Dates](#) calendar.

The [academic calendar](#) seems pretty straight forward, but now that we have "part-of-term" blocks (Blocks 1 & 2) in Spring, Summer and Fall, it is important to know that each of those terms has their own deadlines. There are specific add/drop and withdrawal deadlines for Block 1, Block 2, or the 15-week calendar. In Summer, there's different dates for Summer 1, Summer 2 and the 11-week calendar.

Similarly, the [Cashier](#) posts individual deadline dates for cancelling schedules if your student account is not paid in full. You must remember to check this calendar as soon as you are registered for an upcoming semester so you know the date when your bill must be paid.

Put all of these deadlines in your Outlook or Google or other electronic calendar or write them in your paper calendar. Post them in several places to serve as reminders, too! You will be glad you did!

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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.

Summer 2021 - July 16

Fall 2021 - December 1

Spring 2022 - April 21

[Thesis/Dissertation Help](#)





How To Start Your Research Workshop

Join this session from the Office for Faculty Excellence to learn more about how to get started on your thesis or dissertation!

June 23 on Wednesday, 10-11 AM

Webex link

<https://ecu.webex.com/meet/bianh>

Getting started on research: How to plan a meaningful and realistic thesis or dissertation.

[Registration Required - CLICK HERE](#)

Summer Research & Statistics Workshops Announced!

Each summer the Office for Faculty Excellence offers a series of research & statistics workshops that are open to everyone - including graduate students! Take advantage of these free workshops. Starting May 18th, there are workshops on SPSS, Matlab, R, SAS, and Python just to name a few! There are also a variety of statistics workshops including Measurement & Descriptive Statistics, T tests and ANOVA, Multilevel Modeling, Correlation and Linear Regression and more! This year, there are also special topics courses such as Photovoice, Digital Story Telling, and the use of Photography: Theoretical Foundation, Best Practices and Ethical Considerations in Reserach. You can find all the workshops offered and WebEx links on the Office for Faculty Excellence Website.

<https://ofe.ecu.edu/office-for-faculty-excellence/research-and-statistics/summer-research-workshop-series/>



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| MAY
6 | Exams for Spring end
Academic Calendar - 15 week | JUNE
8 | Last day to withdraw from Summer 1 courses.
Summer Academic Calendar |
| MAY
7 | Commencement
Commencement Website | JUNE
21 | Last day for incompletes to be changed to a grade for Summer 1 courses from Summer 2020.
Summer Academic Calendar |
| MAY
10 | All Grades Due
Academic Calendar - 15 week | JUNE
21 | Last day of classes for Summer 1
Summer Academic Calendar |
| MAY
14 | Advising, registration, and schedule changes still allowed for Summer
Summer Academic Calendar | JUNE
22 | Final Exams Summer 1
Summer Academic Calendar |
| MAY
17 | Summer 1 and 11-week Summer Classes Begin
Summer Academic Calendar | JUNE
24 | Summer Session 2 classes begin.
Summer Academic Calendar |
| MAY
18 | Last day to make changes to your Summer 1 calendar (add or drop). After today, all drops are withdrawals.
Summer Academic Calendar | JUNE
25 | Last Day to make Changes to SS2 schedules
Summer Academic Calendar |
| MAY
31 | State Holiday - No Classes | JUNE
30 | Last day to withdraw from 11-week Summer courses without grades.
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](#).



EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES

New Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation - August 12, 2021

Check out the flyer [here!](#)

The Graduate School is hosting an online Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation for graduate students who are new to being a TA and would like support. Whether you have already been serving as a TA or will be in an upcoming semester, please join us for a day of information & networking with other graduate students across campus. Once you register, you will be added to a Microsoft Team so you can participate in the online sessions throughout the day on August 12. Approx 9 AM - 3:00 PM) [Register Today!](#)

Thesis-Dissertation Boot Camp is May 12 - 14, 2021

Check out the flyer [here!](#)

Thesis-Dissertation Boot Camp is being offered virtually again through Microsoft Teams on Wednesday May 12, Thursday May 13, and Friday May 14. Students should attend all 3 sessions to ensure you make progress on the pages of your thesis or dissertation. This is a workshop designed to have focused writing time. While there is some interaction, writing pages is the goal. Please review the flyer for more info and [Register Today!](#) Students are added to Teams after they register.



ACADEMIC UPDATES

After You Upload Your Thesis or Dissertation, What Happens?

It's an exciting time when you finally get to upload the PDF of your master's thesis or dissertation and you realize you are really, really close to finishing your degree! But what happens after you hit upload?

After you upload your document into the Vireo system, someone in the Graduate School receives the document and does the first review. In this review, compliance with university requirements is checked - such as formatting of the title page, location of your page numbers, appropriate ordering of the sections and most importantly determining if the required documentation from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) or the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) is present in Appendix A.

You will receive a communication from the reviewer through the Vireo system (it sends an email) to let you know exactly what needs to be clarified, changed, or updated. It is important that you check your ECU email several times a day once you upload because YOU can speed up the process by making changes quickly.

Once you have made all changes, then the document is given a final review by one of the associate deans in the Graduate School. The associate dean then provides a recommendation to the Dean to accept the document (or potentially return it back for more revisions). Once the Dean gives final approval, notification is sent to the Registrar and they note it in your Degree Works audit. It is only then that you are finished with the thesis or dissertation processes.

This review process can take 2-3 weeks, which is why we have a deadline each semester. Make sure to review the Vireo website for all the information you need on this final, but important step in your degree program.

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](#).

The deadlines for thesis-dissertation submission each semester are always on the front page of your Pirate Pearls newsletter!



Activate Your Free Account Today!

All graduate students have been provided with a free membership to the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD). Please join today and take advantage of the outstanding professional development tools available to you - whether or not you will have employment as a faculty member. From writing workshops to time management, this web portal has something for ALL graduate students and their tools can help you stay on a plan for success!

To activate your free Institutional Membership:

- 1) Go to <http://www.FacultyDiversity.org/Join>
- 2) Choose your institution from the drop-down menu (if you don't see a "Select Your Institution" menu, click on "Become a Member" and then select East Carolina University.
- 3) Select "Activate my Membership"
- 4) Complete the registration form using your institutional email address (i.e. @students.ecu.edu or @ecu.edu)
- 5) Go to your institution email to find a confirmation email. Click "Activate Account" in the confirmation email.

If I withdraw from a course do I have to pay back financial aid?

Sometimes!

If a student accepts financial aid of any type - loan, grant, assistantship, scholarship, tuition remission, etc., and then does not maintain the required course enrollment for that type of funding, it is possible that the student will be required to re-pay the funding. This repayment may be required immediately. If a student starts out as full-time and then either drops courses or withdraws from courses and the result is part-time enrollment, it is likely that monies will have to be returned. Students should speak with the Office of Financial Aid prior to any drop or withdraw that will change the status from full-time (9 credits) to part-time (fewer than 9 credits).

Students should research all consequences of dropping or withdrawing from courses at any point in the term by contacting Financial Aid and their advisor.