

# Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT  
NEWSLETTER



VOL 4, NO 12

## Important Changes Made for Fall 2020

Graduate students will need to take note of the major changes recently announced that will impact Fall 2020 (and Spring 2021).

### New academic calendars for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021

These include start and end date changes, as well as removal of Fall & Spring Break. Make sure to review the new calendars carefully and adjust your personal calendars accordingly. Use these links to access the calendars: [FALL 2020](#) [SPRING 2021](#)

### New deadline for submitting your thesis or dissertation for a Fall 2020 graduation

The deadline for when to submit your thesis or dissertation is based upon the academic calendar. Because the overall semester dates changed, so did the submission date. For a Fall 2020 graduation, your thesis or dissertation must be submitted by November 11, 2020. Procedures on how to do this will be announced in late August or early September and how to format your document is on the [Thesis/Dissertation LibGuide](#). The procedures listed for Summer 2020 will be revised for Fall 2020.

### Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 will utilize a new block scheduling system

The university announced the new block scheduling system on May 7th on the Coronavirus website and through emails directly to students. The news story, with helpful links is [here](#). There are some courses staying on the traditional 15-week schedule, so make sure you review your class schedules carefully after the Registrar converts schedules to the block system. If you have already registered, your courses are likely to change once the conversion takes place, so please check your schedule in Banner Self-Service regularly during the month of June.

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## 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. The Thesis & Dissertation deadline is always listed there!

[Summer 2020 - July 17](#)  
[Fall 2020 - November 11 \(this is a change due to change in academic calendar\)](#)





# THESIS & DISSERTATION SUBMISSION

## Summer 2020 Submission of Master's Theses & Doctoral Dissertations

**The Vireo online portal is NOT going to be used for Summer 2020 submissions.**

Instead of uploading your document into the Vireo portal, all students submitting a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation will email three required documents as PDFs (no other formats accepted):

- 1) **The master's thesis or doctoral dissertation**
- 2) **The NEDL (non-exclusive distribution license)** for ECU and ProQuest License Agreement. Please review the licenses, embargo, and access settings. Your online signature is required in the NEDL. Your thesis/dissertation director's online signature is also required.
- 3) **Signature page with signatures** Templates are provided on the Vireo LibGuide. Use the appropriate one: thesis OR dissertation. All forms of electronic signatures/images will be accepted in the separate signature page. You do not need to obtain the signature of the Dean of the Graduate School before you send the email.

Email these three documents to Marquerite Bond (bassm@ecu.edu) and Dr. Tom McConnell (mconnellt@ecu.edu). Be sure to include both those email addresses and you can copy yourself, as well. No paper copies of theses or dissertations will be accepted. No electronic theses or dissertations (ETD) submitted through any service (like Vireo) will be accepted either.

### Submission Deadlines

**Make sure to plan your semesters to ensure you meet the deadline in the term in which you want to graduate**

<u>Term</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Summer 2020	July 17, 2020
Fall 2020	Nov 11, 2020
Spring 2021	April 22, 2021

### Formatting Help

**The Vireo LibGuide has information and templates on formatting your document.**

The [Vireo LibGuide](#) has several tabs at the top of the page with great information to help you. Make sure to click on "[Required Elements](#)" to see the list of pages/sections that must be in your document. Each of these pages has a Microsoft Word template for you to use. Click on "[Agreements, Embargos, and Copyright](#)" to learn more about the NEDL form that is required when you submit your document. And don't forget to consult the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) section too!



# IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

JUNE

9

Last day to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM. Block courses may be withdrawn only during the first 60% of their regularly scheduled class meetings [Academic Calendar](#)

JULY

3

State Holiday (no classes)  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JUNE

22

Last day for graduate students to submit work for removal of incompletes given during First Summer Session 2019  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JULY

17

Last day to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM. Block courses may be withdrawn only during the first 60% of their regularly scheduled class meetings [Academic Calendar](#)

JUNE

22

Classes for SS1 end  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JULY

17

Last day to submit a thesis or dissertation for Summer 2020 graduation. See page 2 for details.

JUNE

23

Summer Session 1 Final Exams  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JULY

30

Last day for graduate students to submit work for removal of incompletes given during Second Summer Session 2019  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JUNE

24

Advising, registration and schedule adjustments for Summer Session 2  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JULY

30

Classes end for SS2 and 11-week summer  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JUNE

25

Summer Session 2 Classes Begin  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JULY

21

Summer Session 2 and 11-week Summer Final Exams  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JUNE

26

Last day for registration and schedule adjustments (drop/add) by 5:00 PM for Summer Session 2  
[Academic Calendar](#)

AUG

10

NEW START DATE FOR FALL 2020  
Review the new calendar carefully!  
[Academic Calendar](#)

[This is not an official academic calendar. Always refer to the official calendar for approved deadlines. Academic Calendars are always found at \[ecu.edu/fsonline/senate/fscalend.cfm\]\(http://ecu.edu/fsonline/senate/fscalend.cfm\)](#)



# FINDING CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT & FUNDING

## Graduate Assistantships Available on GradFunding Mailing List!

The Grad Funding listserv (mailing list) was created specifically for ECU graduate students who are seeking assistantships, scholarships, grants, or other type of graduate education or research funding. Faculty and staff are also welcome to join the listserv to become more aware of what is available for graduate students so information can be disseminated to newly admitted students, as well. Please encourage all your classmates and coworkers to sign up! You can unsubscribe at any time. It's an opt-in/opt-out mailing list! Please tell your friends!

1. Address an email to [listserv@listserv.ecu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.ecu.edu)
2. Do not put a subject or signature block/file.
3. Type the message: SUBSCRIBE  
GRADFUNDING-L firstname lastname
4. Replace "firstname" and "lastname" with your own first and last name.
5. Send the email

Additional listserv functions can be found [here](#).

## Scholarships

The [Office of University Scholarships](#) administers numerous scholarships available to students. Many awards require the FAFSA to be on file, so it is good idea for all graduate students to complete the FAFSA. However, also completing the [online application for the University Scholarships](#) increases your chances of "matching" with a scholarship opportunity. Graduate students who choose not to file a FAFSA can still complete the online application with the Office of University Scholarships; however, the student will be ineligible for opportunities that require a FAFSA on file. Students are also encouraged to seek out external scholarship databases for additional opportunities.

## Looking for Campus Employment?

There are three basic types of employment on campus: Assistantships, Federal Work-Study, and Self-Help. Graduate students are eligible for all three, although Federal Work-Study is the least common.

To be eligible for funding, students should complete the FAFSA if you want the Federal Work-Study option. Assistantships and Self-Help jobs do not require a FAFSA on file.

To seek out campus employment, students are encouraged to:

- Speak to their Graduate Program Director about assistantships.
- Log into [Career Services' Handshake](#) web portal. All types of campus employment are listed in their job search tool.
- Speak directly to the [Office of Financial Aid](#) if you are interested in Federal Work-Study positions to determine how to request this option when you file the FAFSA.
- Students should contact the [Student Employment Office](#) when they have questions about paychecks, taxes, timesheets, or other transactional items related to their campus employment.



# GETTING STARTED WITH RESEARCH

## **WEBINAR: Getting Started on Research: How to Plan a Meaningful and Realistic Thesis/Dissertation Study July 7 - 10:00 AM**

This one-hour workshop is provided by the ECU Office for Faculty Excellence. They welcome graduate students to all of their educational sessions!. You can find out more information about this webinar [here](#). Hosted online by Dr. Hui Bian, you will learn how to get started planning your master's thesis or doctoral dissertation. Make sure to pre-register [here](#).

## **Required Trainings for Conducting Research**

If you will be participating in research with human participants, you will need to [complete trainings](#) to help you understand the University Medical Center Institutional Review Board (UMCIRB), the [CITI Research Modules](#), and the online IRB submission too, [ePIRATE](#). This information is found on the UMCIRB website. Review the [information](#) and then speak with your research mentor to develop your plan for completing the trainings you are required to finish prior to conducting any type of research.

## **Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement (REDE) Provides Resources to Help**

The [Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement \(REDE\)](#) coordinates the efforts to offer research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Researchers at ECU are developing new technologies, medicines, and innovative approaches that will transform the rural and coastal regions of our state! When you review the REDE website, you will find helpful resources including the various [Research Centers and Institutes](#) on campus as well as [Funding Opportunities](#). You can also learn more about our [Research Administration and Compliance](#) procedures and discover [Community Engagement](#) opportunities. The [ECU Research Dashboard](#) is also available to help you and the public learn more about the research outcomes at ECU. Talk with your research mentors today to learn how you can engage with the Division of REDE to enhance your graduate education experience.