

Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 1

Return of Pirate Nation!

New Website & Master Plan Document Announced!

There is nothing quite as exciting as the return to campus each fall for faculty, staff, and students. We are Pirate Nation and being together makes it even better! We have to make sure we come together safely, so the university has developed an extensive plan for all of us to return to campus. Graduate students should make sure to review the Return of Pirate Nation website on a daily basis to check for updates and news. Also, make sure to read the Return of Pirate Nation Master Plan document. It's a PDF on the website, but it is important for you to go back to the website and read it straight from the web each time because it is a "living" document. This Plan will be update regularly and going back to the website to open the most recent posting is really the best way to stay informed and up to date for your safe return to campus in August.

To get to the new website, navigate to [ecu.edu](https://returnofpiratenation.ecu.edu/) and scroll down just a little. Then click on this graphic which brings you to the website: <https://returnofpiratenation.ecu.edu/>



You can use the menu bar at the top to review all the content, and then scroll a little to click on the Master Plan PDF. Look for Graduate School updates on the Academic Calendar page!



In This Issue

Thesis & Dissertation 2

Important dates 3

Employment 4

Research Resources 5

Important Info6

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](#)





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

The Fall 2020 is a change of date from the original day. November 11 is the confirmed deadline.

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

JULY 3	State Holiday (no classes) Academic Calendar	AUG 14	Last day for registration and schedule adjustments for Fall 2020 (drop/add) by 5:00 PM. 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	SEPT 7	State Holiday (no classes) Academic Calendar
JULY 17	Last day to submit a thesis or dissertation for Summer 2020 graduation. See page 2 for details. Processing Calendar	NOTE !	No Fall Break during Fall 2020 semester Academic Calendar
JULY 30	Last day for graduate students to submit work for removal of incompletes given during Second Summer Session 2019 Academic Calendar	SEPT 30	Fall Festival Academic Calendar
JULY 30	Classes end for SS2 and 11-week summer Academic Calendar	OCT 19	Last day to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM. Block courses may be dropped only during the first 60% of their regularly scheduled class meetings. Academic Calendar
JULY 31	Summer Session 2 and 11-week Summer Final Exams Academic Calendar	NOV 6	Early Registration for Graduate Students for Spring 2021 begins at 1:00 PM Academic Calendar
AUG 10	NEW START DATE FOR FALL 2020 Review the new calendar carefully! Academic Calendar	NOV 17	Last day for graduate students to submit work for removal of incompletes given during Fall 2019 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 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
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.



RESEARCH TOOLS

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.



GATHERING INFORMATION

Staying Healthy During the COVID-19 Crisis

The Return of Pirate Nation website has excellent information under the [Protecting our Pirates](#) main menu item. Here you can see information regarding masks, hand sanitizer, campus disinfection practices, public transportation, safe meeting practices and more! Make sure to check out the **Mental Health and Emotional Well-Being** section for information on how to handle the stresses that come with what we have been dealing with since COVID-19 made its appearance.

Town Hall Meetings with Interim Chancellor Mitchelson Open to All

If you would like to participate in the next Town Hall meeting hosted by Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson, you can find that information on the Return of Pirate Nation website under the FAQs main menu item > [Town Hall Meetings](#).

The next one is July 1 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM on Microsoft Teams. You can join via this [link](#).

Graduate Assistantships

Our graduate assistants are a vital part of campus and whether you are teaching, doing research, or other administrative tasks, we value your work. Please speak with your graduate program director if you have questions about your graduate assistantship assignment to determine if your work duties have changed in any way for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. Make sure you understand your start date and when you are expected to report for your first day of employment.

Tuition, Fees, Payments & More!

There are links for information regarding [Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 tuition and fees](#), the [Cashier's Important Dates calendar](#), [tuition payment plans](#), and the [Refund/Withdrawal Policy](#) on the Return of Pirate Nation [website](#). These links are always available each semester as well, typically on the Cashier's website. It is especially important for you to look at all of these dates, calendars, and documents so you are fully informed of the changes that have occurred due to the major changes in the academic calendar for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Now is the time to review this information so you can plan your travel back to Greenville if needed, your financial obligations for tuition and fees, your employment schedule and your academic schedule.