Pirate Pearls
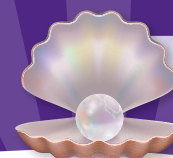
THE GRADUATE STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Fall 2019!

It's going to be a great semester!

The start of the semester is always exciting - new classes, new colleagues, making progress on projects, even planning for graduation. It's important to get yourself started off well!

Complete Course Registration by August 19th

The last day to add or drop a course for Fall 2019 is August 23rd, but why not get it done for August 19th - the first day of classes? It is the student's responsibility to ensure the schedule is accurate - course name, number, section number, and number of credits. Even if your program has registered you into courses, the graduate student is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the semester course registration. Need help? Registrar's Website

Complete payment of Fall tuition & fees

The Cashier's Office provides numerous resources to help you pay by a variety of methods and on-time. The Important Dates calendar shows the days when schedules are cancelled for nonpayment. To avoid this, please review this calendar early each semester so you are aware when your bill is due. Contact the Cashier about installment payment plans well in advance of each semester. Review your ECU email daily to ensure you receive messages from the Cashier & Financial Aid and act on them quickly!

Apply to Graduate

If you plan to graduate in Fall 2019, please apply to graduate now so that the Registrar can begin reviewing your record! You should be reviewing your Degree Works audit to make sure you have all the credits you need!

See Page 2 for Detailed Information

In This Issue

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!

Fall 2019
November 25, 2019
Link to Deadlines

ECU
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Detailed Course Registration for Fall 2019

Ultimately, it is the graduate student's responsibility to ensure your course schedule in any semester is accurate. Students are responsible for making course courses are added, dropped, or withdrawn by the deadlines published in the Academic Calendar. Even if your program registers courses for you, you are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of your schedule and the financial obligations that are a consequence of course registration. A few important facts you should remember:

- Even if you do not pay your bill in an attempt to "drop" your courses and not enroll for a semester, you are obligated to those charges in the event they are not dropped for non-payment. That is why it is critical that you follow appropriate procedures for dropping courses and do not assume your schedule is clear because you did not pay your bill.   Before the 5th day of Fall or Spring, you can drop all your courses using Banner Self Service. If your final course won't drop, then you must email regis@ecu.edu and request the final course be dropped from your schedule. This notifies the university that you are completely enrolling for a semester.
- If you want to "drop" a course after the 5th day of Fall or Spring, it is not a drop. It is a **course withdrawal** and you must do that by emailing regis@ecu.edu and requesting a withdrawal. It's always a good idea to copy your graduate program director and your course instructors on emails to regis@ecu.edu.
- All of the registration and add/drop policies and the withdrawal policies are on the Registrar's website or within the Graduate Catalog. It is your obligation to review these policies and abide by them.
- Always review the Cashier's "Important Dates" document each term to ensure you are well aware of the deadlines for paying your tuition and fees.

If you are not currently registered for Fall 2019, you should be registered ASAP in order to know the balance due that will be on your account. Early registration gives you more time to determine how you will meet your financial obligations, and even arrange your work schedule and social calendar. The benefits of early registration are worth the few minutes you will take today to get this accomplished for your Fall 2019 courses.

The Registrar has helpful information on how to register as well as who to contact if you get registration errors when you try to register. One good rule of thumb is that if you get a registration error, contact the department that offers the course to find out if there is some type of course restriction that needs to be removed. The department offering the course is the only office that can remove course restrictions for a specific course.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

AUG 13 — New Graduate Student Orientation
Information

AUG 19 — First day of classes. Make all schedule adjustments by Aug 23.
Academic Calendar

AUG 23 — Last day for registration & schedule adjustments (drop and add) by 5:00 pm.
Academic Calendar

SEPT 2 — State Holiday.
Academic Calendar

SEPT 11-13 — Thesis-Dissertation Boot Camp
Information

OCT 4 — Registration Deadline for Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT)
Information

OCT 5-8 — Fall Break.
Academic Calendar

OCT 28 — Last day to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM.
Academic Calendar

NOV 1 — Early registration for graduate students begins at 1:00 pm.
Academic Calendar

NOV 15 — Suggested deadline for having your Spring 2020 registration completed.

NOV 25 — Final day to upload a thesis or dissertation into Vireo for a Fall 2019 graduation. Information

NOV-DEC 27-1 — Thanksgiving Break
Academic Calendar

DEC 3 — Classes end. Last day to remove incompletes given during Fall 2018.
Academic Calendar

DEC 13 — Commencement. Apply to graduate early!
Academic Calendar

Academic Calendars are always found at ecu.edu/fsonline/senate/fscalend.cfm

What is printed on this newsletter page does not supercede what is published in the official online Academic Calendar or other university published calendars

Getting Permissions To Conduct Research at ECU

The University & Medical Center Institutional Review Board (IRB) oversees the research that involves human participants. All research projects should be reviewed by the IRB to determine what level of approval is needed: exempt, expedited or full. Using the ePIRATE system, graduate students can get approval for research projects - whether a dissertation, master's thesis or another major project. Speak with your research mentors if you have questions and consult with the UMCIRB ePirate Page to get more information on starting an ePIRATE account and submitting your future research projects for permissions.

 ePIRATE FAQs   UMCIRB website

Are you using Handshake?

Career Services has provided HANDSHAKE to the campus community! Join today and you will have access to career fairs, employment opportunities, and will be able to see assistantship advertisements too!

http://www.ecu.edu/career/

Feeling Stressed?

The Center for Counseling and Student Development is available for all students who feel like they need someone to talk to about stress, anxiety, or any other issue that is preventing you from doing your best. If you believe you need some help, please contact them today!

http://www.ecu.edu/counselingcenter/

FALL 2019

Part-Time Job Fair

All On and Off Campus Employment

August 20, 2019
1-4 p.m.
Main Campus Student Center

Bring your ECU 1 Card and extra copies of your resume
Visit: career.ecu.edu

Hosted by ECU Career Services, the Student Employment Office, and Federal Work Study

ECU

ADA Accommodation: 252-737-1016 (voice/TTY)

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Your Graduate & Professional Student Senate (GPSS) is looking forward to advocating for YOU this year!

Join the GPSS leadership & other members for a Welcome Back Party!

Friday, August 30
6:00 - 8:00 PM
PITT STREET BREWING COMPANY
Free Food Truck tickets* and gift card giveaways

*Limited to the first 100 students
You must bring your 1Card to be eligible for giveaways

The Graduate School is looking for 2 eager, motivated and contientious students to serve as GPSS Senators on behalf of the Graduate School.

Please contact Kathleen Cox at coxka@ecu.edu if you are interested. Provide a paragraph about who you are, what program you are completing, and why you are interested in serving as a student advocate for your fellow graduate students!

This is a commitment that will necessitate meetings, sometimes after 5:00 PM throughout the Fall semester.

All graduate students are eligible to participate in GPSS and its events!

Please email today!
coxka@ecu.edu

Want to learn more about GPSS?

Log into the Student Activities & Organization's online student portal called

ENGAGE

Here you can learn more about GPSS as well as all of the other recognized student organizations on campus for graduate students, and all students!

LOGIN to ENGAGE

Direct Engage Link to GPSS

The Graduate Catalog

All policies and degree requirements related to your graduate education are published annually in the Graduate Catalog. Your degree requirements would be contained in the catalog that was active the year you arrived. Other policies, such as the transfer credit policy, are active in the current term catalog. Thus, you would refer to your catalog of first entry for your degree requirements, but the 2019-2020 catalog for policies on transfer credit, dual degrees, or time extensions. Not reading the Catalog does not constitute a reason for not having met a deadline or lack of adherence to a policy. All students are expected to review the Catalog.

Incomplete Grades

Sometimes situations arise that necessitate a student requesting an incomplete from their course instructor. If granted, the student should negotiate a completion date & process with the course instructor to ensure the coursework is completely in a timely manner so the grade can be changed from an Incomplete to an A or B, for example. The Incomplete policy is explained in the Grading System section of the Graduate Catalog. Students who are considering requesting an incomplete in any course should consult with the Graduate Catalog and then request the incomplete from the course instructor.

Transfer Credit Policies

In some instances, graduate students may transfer in courses taken at another institution. The first step in determining if this is possible is to have the graduate program determine if the courses taken elsewhere are appropriate in content and credit to be acceptable for the current program at ECU. If the program supports transfer credit, the graduate program director (not the student) submits a request for transfer credit to the Graduate School. If approved, the transfer credit notation will be visible on the Degree Works audit. Credit cannot be fully accepted until a transfer course is completed and graded and an official transcript has been received at the Graduate School (not by the student). Transfer courses must have a grade of A or B to be acceptable. The entire transfer credit policy is within the Graduate Catalog and students should review it and discuss credit with their graduate program director. Graduate programs are not obligated to accept transfer credit and many have specific rules or limits about transfer credit.

Obtaining Your ECU Student ID: the 1Card

The ECU 1 Card is the official photo ID card for East Carolina University. All students, staff, and faculty need this card whenever they are asked to show university identification. While the ECU 1 Card is required for identification purposes, other accounts linked to the card are optional. These include meal plans & other dining options, Bookstore account, Bounty Bucks accounts, Athletic & other ticket events & more! Review the 1Card website to learn more and to find out where you can go on campus to obtain your 1Card. You can also see their FAQ.