

# Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT  
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 5

## The Countdown is On.....

### Registration for Spring starts November 6

Beginning at 1:00 PM on Friday, November 6, graduate students are eligible to register for Spring 2021. It is in your best interests to speak to your advisors NOW so you are ready to register. When you register early, it allows you to know your financial obligations. This helps with planning finances, applying for and understanding financial aid, and will also help you review your progress towards your degree in Degree Works. The Graduate School recommends students register for Spring by December 1. This ensures you are able to be organized, plan, and begin each semester as stress-free as possible!

#### How Do I Register?

Graduate Students are expected to register themselves for courses via Banner Self Service. Your schedule must be checked each semester. It is the student's responsibility to ensure your schedule is accurate including correct course name, number, section, and number of credits. To learn more about using Banner Self Service for early registration, review the helpful guides on the Registrar's website. Graduate students do not need registration PINs.

## Don't forget 3-Minute Thesis!

**Join us for the Awards Ceremony on  
Wednesday, November 4th at 2:00 PM!**

Get the link for the November 4, 2:00 PM Awards Ceremony here.

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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.

[Fall 2020 - November 11](#)  
[Spring 2021 - April 22](#)





# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## University Introduces a new term - Winter Intercession

For the first time, the university is offering courses during the break between Fall and Spring Semesters! The new name for this term is Winter Intercession and there are course offerings for both undergraduate students and graduate students. You can find the specific dates for this new term on the Academic Calendars [website](#). Click on "[Winter Intercession/Spring 2021](#)" to see this new academic opportunity. Make sure to review all of the academic calendars carefully. When you use early registration (beginning Nov 6) for your Winter and Spring courses, you will want to make sure you already know the academic calendars so you can appropriately schedule your personal, employment, and school obligations.

Students who rely on financial aid will need to consult with the Office of Financial Aid if you have questions about how your Spring financial aid award will be applied to courses during the Winter Intercession. If you are unsure of who to contact, you can review the [Office of Financial Aid's contact page](#). Each student is assigned a financial counselor based on the first initial of your last name. You can contact your [personal counselor](#) directly for questions. You also can email the general Financial Aid Questions email at [faques@ecu.edu](mailto:faques@ecu.edu).

Not all programs or departments will be offering Winter Intercession courses, however there are a few opportunities that some of you may be interested in pursuing. You will be able to find these opportunities when you use the early registration period to register for courses for both Winter and Spring terms.

## New Graduate Teaching Assistant Orientation - December 2

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 December 2nd. (Approx 9 AM - 3:00 PM)

**[Register Today!](#)**



# IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

- |                         |   |                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>4</b>  | Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Award Ceremony - Get link for 2:00 PM Award Ceremony <a href="#">here</a> .                                 | <b>DEC</b><br><b>1</b>  | Last day for schedule changes for Winter Intercession courses<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>                                    |
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>6</b>  | Early Registration for Spring 2021 begins today at 1:00 PM for graduate students<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>                 | <b>DEC</b><br><b>4</b>  | Suggested date by which all continuing students should be registered for all courses in Spring 2021 semesters (8w1, 8w2, and 15-week) |
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>11</b> | Deadline for uploading a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation for a Fall 2020 graduation.<br><a href="#">Processing Calendar</a>  | <b>DEC</b><br><b>4</b>  | Commencement Ceremony, 10:00 AM Virtual<br><a href="#">Commencement Website</a>   |
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>17</b> | Last day for graduate students to submit work for removal of incompletes given during Fall 2019.<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a> | <b>DEC</b><br><b>21</b> | Last day to withdraw from Winter Intercession courses without grades.<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>                            |
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>19</b> | Final Exams for 15-week semester begin<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>   | <b>JAN</b><br><b>7</b>  | Winter Intercession Classes End. All exams on Friday, Jan 8.<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>                                     |
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>25</b> | Exams for Fall Semester end<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>  | <b>JAN</b><br><b>19</b> | Classes begin for Block 1 (8w1) and 15-week semesters in Spring 2021<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>                             |
| <b>NOV</b><br><b>30</b> | New! Winter Intercession Classes begin<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>   | <b>JAN</b><br><b>25</b> | Last day to make schedule changes for ALL Spring 2021 terms: Block 1, Block, 2 and 15-week<br><a href="#">Academic Calendar</a>       |

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](#).**



# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## Sage Research Methods Digital Tool Available - Workshop to Learn More!

The world is changing quickly, and separating fact from fiction has become a daunting challenge for students and other researchers. They need balanced, accurate and accessible information to guide them on their research journey and help with developing and refining their research skills.

SAGE Research Methods is a digital collection of over a thousand books, hundreds of videos, practice datasets, research cases and tools designed to support research at all levels. In this training, we will go over some of the tools and content that make up SAGE Research Methods and discuss easy ways that can help support you as you are developing your own research topics and projects.

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify how the structure and content of SAGE Research Methods can be used to guide researchers along the research process
- Use various tools within SAGE Research Methods to help develop researchers' information literacy skills
- Utilize the features of the SAGE Research Methods profile take advantage of personalized services and increase engagement with the platform

**Register for this Zoom Event - Nov 19**  
**11 AM - 12 Noon**



This year's International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (ISOSLD) event may look different. However, survivors of suicide loss come together to find connection, understanding, and hope through their shared experience. To learn how loss survivors will be connecting in your area, please visit: <https://isosld.afsp.org/greenville-north-carolina/>.

For more information on International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, click [here](#).



Join the ECU Alumni Association for a new webinar series – A Pirate's Path: Career Journeys & Lessons Learned.

Many who graduate do so with a plan firmly in-hand only to find their career compass pointing them in a totally new direction. Join us to learn how alumni Pirates navigated their career paths, met obstacles and objections with fierce Pirate perseverance, and created opportunities that didn't first exist.

If you're just starting out in your career, thinking of making a major change, register today!

**• Weds., Nov. 4 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET**

Discovering Your Purpose – The path taken by a first-generation college graduate was not easy, but once he understood his "why" the journey became his passion.

**• Weds., Dec. 2 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET**

How Your Crew Helps You to Keep GO-ing! – Adjusting your sails is a tough job to do alone. See how a skilled crew helped this Pirate shift his course & encouraged him to keep GOing.

**• Weds., Nov. 18 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET**

Throwing Out the Map – Sometimes you just have too many ports where you could find a career. Find out how you need to throw out all the maps and choose the one that leads to your treasure.

**• Weds., Dec. 16 | 12:00-1:00 PM ET**

Unplanned Paths Make For Fun Adventures – Just because your compass takes you someplace you never expected doesn't mean past experience & education is for naught. You just have to learn to apply it like this Pirate.

**Webinars are free to attend. Your ZOOM link will be sent to upon [registration](#).**



## DETAILS & RESOURCES

### 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.

### Looking for Campus Employment?

Visit the [Student Employment Office](#) website to search for positions.

Once in that website, find the Job Category box and select the positions that start with the word "student." Most graduate students are eligible for self-help jobs, assistantships, and less commonly Federal Work-Study. Check with Financial Aid to see if you qualify for Federal Work-Study. As of the writing of this newsletter, there were 28 job openings active and ready for hire!

### Get Active with the Graduate & Professional Student Senate!

The Graduate & Professional Student Senate (GPSS) is the official graduate student advocacy organization on campus, and they are looking for YOU! There is an opening on the Executive Board for Spring 2021 and we know energetic students like you are interested in contributing! If you would like more information about serving on the Executive Board, please contact Emily Waters, Assistant Director, Graduate & Professional Student Engagement at [theyse18@ecu.edu](mailto:theyse18@ecu.edu).

You can see what GPSS is up to next by registering in the organization page in [Engage](#). Log into [engage.ecu.edu](https://engage.ecu.edu) and search for Graduate & Professional Student Senate to see their upcoming events! While you are in the Engage portal, take some time to look around and see all the events that are available for all students, including graduate students! We are all trying to move forward through this unusual and trying time and doing something fun, recreational and free can help you blow off some steam and rejuvenate.



# MORE EVENTS & RESOURCES

## Grad PIRATE Talks Continue into November

Our outstanding graduate students continue to provide interesting, thought-provoking, and informative presentations about their research in the important areas of race, diversity, inclusivity, disparities and cultural competence. Please join us on November 10 and November 17th at 6:30 PM for the final two Grad PIRATE Talks for Fall 2020. More information and the links to participate are on the [Grad PIRATE Talks website](#). You can also access an RSVP for each talk in the [Engage](#) portal. You do not have to RSVP to attend, but if you do, you will receive an email reminder with the link to log in for the presentation on the evening of the online session.

## Navigating Spring Semester with Changes to Calendar

You probably remember that the dates for Spring 2021 have been changed due to the impacts of COVID-19. You can [review the academic calendar here](#). Make sure to review the Spring 2021 academic calendar to ensure you fully understand the start & end

dates; and remember, **there is no spring break during Spring 2021.**

Also, make sure you periodically review the Coronavirus Updates website so you stay fully informed of the updates and changes COVID brings to our campus. The [Coronavirus website](#) has information about Spring Semester changes, the [confirmed cases](#) on campus and more! Stay informed to help yourself stay healthy.

## 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.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & WRITING

## Online Writing Development Opportunity!

Don't forget to activate your account with **National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity!** Your account is FREE and there are great resources like the [14-day Writing Challenge](#). This online event takes place several times a year and you get mingled into a group of other writers - both faculty and graduate students - to develop your habit of writing every day.

The upcoming [14-Day Writing Challenges](#) for 2021 are: March 22 - April 4 and June 21 - July 2. You can participate in both, for free!

Make sure to review their website & [get active!](#)

## ECU University Writing Center

Our University Writing Center (UWC) is still providing appointments for students to get help with their writing. The UWC is a comprehensive center providing support services to graduate students who need help with writing, as well as employing graduate students to serve as writing consultants. When you review their website, you will see hiring opportunities, remote services information, and the link for making a virtual appointment. You can also ask the staff of the UWC to provide guest lectures in classes you are teaching and can schedule a classroom workshop, too. Make sure to spend time reviewing the website!

[ECU University Writing Center](#)

## The Office for Equity & Diversity Has Events for All

The ECU Office for Equity & Diversity hosts and advertises a variety of "Diversity Highlights" across campus each month. All these events are open to students and are accessible through the [Engage](#) system. Please log into [Engage](#) and search for the name of the event to register! Most are virtual and you are sent a link once you register in [Engage](#). There are more events in Nov than what we could list here! Search for more in [Engage](#).

Nov 3, 10, 17 - What's the Tea? 4:00 PM

Nov 4, 11 - Coffee House Group 6:00 PM

Nov 5 - Health Space: Racial Trauma Support Group 3:00 PM

Nov 5 - Take Back the Night 7:00 PM

Nov 9 - Diversity Dialogues: Gerrymandering 3:00 PM & Barbershop Talks at 6:00 PM

Nov 9 - Queer Film Series: DISCLOSURE 7:00 PM

Nov 10 - Moving Beyond Myth: Acknowledging & Celebrating Indigenous People in the South 6:00 PM

Nov 10 Grad PIRATE Talks: The Many Faces of Feminism, 6:30 PM

Nov 11 - Get CulturED: Nigeria 6:00 PM