

# Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT  
NEWSLETTER



VOL 5, NO 6

## Getting Support When You Need It

Graduate school is tough! Students have full academic schedules, are employed, and many also have families to support. Some of our graduate students are helping elderly parents or raising children and all of our graduate students are very busy each semester while trying to do well academically. There are times when you may need support to get you through the tougher times.

The great news is that ECU has the support you need! Whether it's health care, emotional support, or academic, there are resources for you to help. Spend some time reviewing these resources so when you do need them you will be aware of what's available and will know how to contact them.

**Dean of Students Office** <https://deanofstudents.ecu.edu/>  
The Dean of Students (DOS) office is available for a variety of your needs. You can talk to a counselor there when you are having difficulty in courses, with roommates, or your overall academic experience. The DOS office is the official office for filing complaints. If you have a complaint or concern, you can talk to DOS about the best way to pursue resolving the issue. The DOS also facilitates the ECU CARES program. ECU CARES is available for anyone to report a person of concern. By sharing your concerns, you are helping to maintain the safety of our campus community. Emergencies are not submitted through the ECU CARES form. The ECU CARES referrals are reviewed during business hours and the DOS office determines how the concern is handled. The process is anonymous; the person you submit a CARES report for does not get told that it was you. Once a report is made, the DOS office will reach out to the person and other appropriate offices to determine what needs to be done to resolve the situation or help the individual.

**Please Continue to Page 5 for More Support Resources**

## In This Issue

Spring Career Fairs .....	2
Deadlines .....	3
Apply to Graduate .....	4
Support Services .....	5-6

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.

[Spring 2021 - April 22](#)

[Thesis/Dissertation Help](#)





# STUDENT EVENTS

## Prepare Now for Spring Career Fairs

The ECU Career Services office is already busy planning career events for Spring 2021. Make sure to put these dates in your calendar and then watch their website and your email for announcements about each specific event. Here are some helpful reminders

- Bookmark the Career Services [website](#) so you have easy access every time you open your browser
- Make sure your account is active in [Handshake](#). If the Career Fairs are virtual instead of in person, you will likely need to use the Handshake portal to visit employers and make appointments for one-on-one interviews.
- Begin working on your resume! The [Career Resource Guide](#) is posted online and has excellent tools and tips!
- Practice your interview skills. You can utilize resources from Career Services such as [Interview Stream](#) but also you can make individual appointments with the [Speech Communication Center](#) to learn how to polish your professional speaking style.
- Look at all the resources available to you from Career Services. Scroll to the bottom of their [main website](#) for more online tools.

## Spring 2021 Career Fairs

### **Virtual Pirate Nurse Job Fair**

4:00 - 6:00 PM  
February 8, 2021  
Virtual in [Handshake](#)

### **Virtual Engineering & Technology Career Fair**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
February 17, 2021  
Virtual in [Handshake](#)

### **Virtual Job & Internship Fair**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
February 24, 2021  
Virtual in [Handshake](#)

### **Virtual Education Job Fair**

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
March 17, 2021  
Virtual in [Handshake](#)



# IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

NOV  
**30**

Classes begin for Winter Intercession  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JAN  
**7**

Winter Intercession Classes End  
[Academic Calendar](#)

DEC  
**1**

Last day to register for Winter Intercession or make changes to your Winter Intercession schedule  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JAN  
**8**

Final Exams for Winter Intercession  
[Academic Calendar](#)

DEC  
**4**

Commencement Ceremony, 10:00 AM Virtual  
[Commencement Website](#)

JAN  
**18**

State Holiday (No Classes)  
[Academic Calendar](#)

DEC  
**4**

Suggested date by which all continuing students should be registered for all courses in Spring 2021 semesters (8w1, 8w2, and 15-week)

JAN  
**19**

First day of Spring 2021 classes  
[Academic Calendar](#)

DEC  
**21**

Last day for graduate students to withdraw from Winter Intercession courses without grades  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JAN  
**25**

Last day for registration or scheduled changes for Spring 2021  
[Academic Calendar](#)

DEC  
**24-25**

State Holiday (No Classes)  
[Academic Calendar](#)

MAR  
**10**

Spring Festival - No Classes  
[Academic Calendar](#)

JAN  
**1**

State Holiday (No Classes)  
[Academic Calendar](#)

MAR  
**25**

Last day for grad students to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM  
[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](#).**



# IMPORTANT DETAILS FOR SPRING

## Apply to Graduate Now

Students should [apply to graduate](#) at least 1 semester prior to the term they wish to graduate. Thus, if you are graduating with a degree or certificate for Spring 2021, you should definitely apply to graduate now. If you are graduating in Summer 2021, you should apply to graduate also. This helps you, your advisor, and the Registrar make sure you are taking the right courses. If you are missing something, you could take it in Summer 2021 possibly and not delay your graduation. If you are earning a degree and a certificate, you must complete a graduation application for EACH credential separately. If you have any questions, make sure to talk with your advisor and/or your graduate program director now so you can plan your final semesters well in advance. [Help with applying to graduate](#) is on the Registrar's website.

## Funding for Next Year 2021-2022

Spring Semester is a good time to look for campus-based funding for Fall 2021 - Spring 2022. You can review the Graduate School's [funding website](#) to learn more about campus employment, assistantships, and our GradFunding mailing list. Review our Assistantships website to learn more about the [Student Affairs Graduate Assistantship Recruitment Program](#), as well. Each office offering a position will be able to tell you the salary and whether the position requires an on-campus presence in Greenville. When you see a job ad, contact the individuals named in the advertisement to ask these and any other questions.

## Finishing a Thesis or Dissertation

It will be helpful to plan Spring 2021 far in advance if you plan to submit your master's thesis or doctoral dissertation so you can graduate in May, 2021. The [Thesis/Dissertation website](#) on the Graduate School's website is your first step for finding all of the information you need. Ultimately, you will upload your thesis or dissertation into our Vireo online portal. **The deadline for uploading your document for a Spring 2021 graduation is April 22, 2021.** From the Thesis/Dissertation website, you can click on "[Vireo Thesis and Dissertation LibGuide with Instructions](#)." Once there, you will find numerous tabs with information including Required Elements, Basic Formatting and FAQs. The Required Elements page has Microsoft Word templates for the required sections of the document. There are electronic forms you will need as well. They are listed on the bottom of the [Thesis/Dissertation website](#).

## Prepare for Graduation

If you are graduating in Spring 2021 (or even in a few days in December!) make sure to review the university's Commencement website: <https://commencement.ecu.edu/>. This website has all the information you need to learn about the ceremony (virtual or in-person), where to get your cap & gown, and more! You can also share that site with family & friends so they can participate in-person or virtually.



# STUDENT RESOURCES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dean of Students - continued -

The DOS office is also able to help you with your daily needs - emergency funds for rent, access to food if you can't afford to eat, and other support to ensure you are safe and secure. The DOS office is also your first point of contact if you think you need to withdraw completely from the university for any reason - academic, medical, or other extenuating circumstances.

The DOS office maintains a page of resources for many support services. This website <https://deanofstudents.ecu.edu/resource/> has contacts for the ECU Police, the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities, Student Health Services and more! Spend time on this website to familiarize your self with the support systems and situations that may require help.

Some of the situations that the DOS office can discuss and assist with include:

- Requesting an approved **Excused Absence** from a course ([LINK](#))
- Helping with a **Course or Term Withdrawal** (before or after a deadline). If after a deadline, they will explain possible options that may be available. ([LINK](#)). The process for graduate students is different than undergraduate students, so make sure to review the website and note the information specific to graduate students. The [Graduate Catalog](#) holds the withdrawal policy, but the DOS office can discuss the decision with you and help you determine possible consequences of a course or term withdrawal. Dr. Kathleen Cox in the Graduate School is involved in requests for withdrawals after the posted deadlines and you are welcome to contact her for clarification about withdrawals, as well ([coxka@ecu.edu](mailto:coxka@ecu.edu)). **Withdrawals often require students to return financial aid immediately, so please discuss this with your advisor as well as consult with the DOS, Office of Financial Aid, and the Graduate School if needed.**

## **Student Health Service**

The [Student Health Service](#) is an on-campus health care clinic, but also provides support for student health insurance questions, immunizations, and other chronic care needs of students. The "Health Services Fee" included in the tuition of students taking on-campus courses covers the office visit fee at the Student Health Service. Other services such as lab, x-ray, or pharmacy are not included in this fee, but are offered at reduced rates and insurance is accepted. Students taking online courses only are not charged the Health Services Fee, therefore, if an online student visits the health center, there will be an "access" fee to pay along with the other charges such a lab or pharmacy. The [FAQ page](#) is helpful and answers most questions! You can also review the [Student Health Insurance Plan website](#) to learn more about who is eligible, how to enroll, and what it covers.

**Please continue reading about Support Services on Page 6**



# SUPPORT SERVICES CONTINUED

There are other services to support you academically as well while you are in graduate school.

## **University Writing Center**

The [University Writing Center](#) (UWC) is available to graduate students in several ways.

First, students who need help with writing for their courses, thesis or dissertation can use the UWC consultant services to get one-on-one help with writing projects. There are virtual appointments available at this time due to COVID, but in-person appointments were available previously and are likely to return in the future. You can make appointments online and visit with the consultant online, as well.

Another great way the UWC supports graduate students is through employment. The UWC hires graduate students to serve as writing consultants to undergraduate and graduate students. If you are looking for employment, make sure to review the UWC website to see if they are hiring!

## **Center for Counseling and Student Development**

The Center for Counseling and Student Development (CCSD) is available as a campus resource for

graduate students who need emotional and mental health support. The CCSD is currently utilizing telemental health services and online/virtual appointments are available.

If you are experiencing stress or mental health concerns due to your academics, personal life, or employment at ECU, please contact the CCSD for consultation. We know that students in graduate school are trying to get a lot accomplished and that can be tough to manage. The professionals at the CCSD are here to help and want you to reach out!

If you are a student who has a known diagnosis and requires psychiatric support too, the CCSD can help you get [psychiatric care](#) while in Greenville. It may be tough to get medications refilled and monitored if your psychiatrist is across the state, so developing a relationship with psychiatry here in Greenville can be essential. You can also inquire about psychiatric services at the Student Health Service on campus at 252-328-6841 or on the [SHS website](#).

**If you or a friend are in need of urgent mental health support, please do one of**

**the following:**

- Call 911
- Call ECU Police at 252-328-6787
- Go to the Vidant Medical Emergency Department at 2100 Stantonsburg Road or your closest hospital's Emergency Room/Department.

**Urgent support could be used when you are in high distress or an emergency situation. Examples may include:**

- Thinking of harming yourself or other people
- Recently experiencing a traumatic event
- Engaging in self-injurious behaviors
- Hearing or seeing things that do not exist
- Being unable to function (i.e. difficulty getting out of bed, change in appetite, etc.)
- Being unable to wait until next available or scheduled appointment to receive help

**Please review the [Urgent Support website](#) to learn more and get prepared before an urgent situation occurs.**