Abstract Submissions for RCAW due February 6

Make sure you submit your abstract for Research & Creative Achievement Week so you can celebrate your accomplishments!

All graduate students are invited to submit an abstract for Research & Creative Achievement Week which takes place March 30 - April 3rd in the Main Campus Student Center. There will be presentations and activities each day including a keynote address, social gatherings and of course podium and poster presentations by you - our outstanding graduate students.

The research or creative activity you present at RCAW does not have to be specifically from a master’s thesis or dissertation. If you are doing research or creative activity under the direction of a faculty member, talk with them to determine what you would like to submit. The online submission process will be available through February 6 at 5:00 PM Eastern, so there is still time!

On the RCAW website, you will find event details, abstract information, and workshops that are being held to help you optimize your presentation style. There are awards for different categories of presentations and they are handed out at an invitation-only luncheon at the end of the week.

Speak with your research or creative activity mentor today and submit your abstract!
Graduate Students Needed to Serve on Conduct Board

Each year, the Graduate School nominates graduate students to serve on the Conduct Board which is overseen by the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. The Student Conduct Board is responsible for reviewing alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct and educating the university population about the rules, policies, and regulations contained in the Code. Most notably, members of the Board serve as panel members for cases that could result in Suspension or Expulsion from the university.

This incredibly important task requires graduate students who are responsible, reliable, and interested in helping the university community.

Graduate students who are interested should send an email to Associate Dean Kathleen Cox (coxka@ecu.edu) providing a brief biography and why you would be interested in serving the university in this way. Attaching a resume is helpful, but not required.
**IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

- **FEB 1** Last Day to Apply for Graduation for a Spring 2020 graduation date.
  
  *Processing Calendar*

  If you are graduating, apply for graduation NOW!

- **FEB 6** Last day to submit an abstract for a presentation at Research & Creative Achievement Week 2020
  
  *RCAW Website*

- **MARCH 8-15** Spring Break
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **MARCH 25** Last day to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades by 5:00 PM today.
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **MARCH 27** Early Registration for Summer and Fall 2020 semesters begins at 1:00 PM. Grad students can register at 1:00 PM.
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **APRIL 23** Last day to submit a thesis or dissertation for Spring 2019 graduation
  
  *Vireo Portal*

  *Processing Calendar*

- **APRIL 10-11** State Holiday (no classes)
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **APRIL 28** State Holiday Make-Up day. Classes which would have met on Friday April 19 will meet on this day instead.
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **APRIL 28** Classes end. Last day for faculty to remove incompletes from Spring 2019.
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **MAY 8** Commencement
  
  *Academic Calendar*

  *Commencement Information*

  If you are graduating, apply for graduation NOW!

- **MAY 13-15** Thesis-Dissertation Boot Camp @ Joyner Library 8:30 AM
  
  *Register for Boot Camp*

- **MAY 15** Registration for Summer classes should be finalized by today
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **MAY 18** First Day of Classes for Summer Session 1 and the 11-week Summer Session
  
  *Academic Calendar*

- **MAY 19** Last Day to make schedule changes for Summer Session 1 courses and 11-week Summer Session courses.
  
  *Academic Calendar*

*This newsletter page is not an official calendar. Always consult the official academic calendar for approved deadlines.*

Current Academic Calendars are always available at [https://facultysenate.ecu.edu/academic-calendars/](https://facultysenate.ecu.edu/academic-calendars/)
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.

Are You a Life Science Graduate Student?
Interested in earning some extra money, developing your interpersonal skills and gaining an insight into a career outside academia?

Discover the Ximbassador Program
East Carolina University has partnered with Ximbio to introduce the Ximbassador Internship program on campus. The Ximbassador Program is a 6-month, paid, part-time internship that runs alongside your current day-to-day role.

Learn more at either of these information sessions:
Friday January 31st (LUNCH PROVIDED)
11:00 AM Howell Science Building Room N-109
12:00 PM Warren Life Science Building Room 202

Interested individuals may apply by February 14, 2020 at https://rede.ecu.edu/innovation/ximbo

LOOKING FOR CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT?

Student Employment Office
How To Search For Positions
Visit the Student Employment Office page

Scroll to see the different types of positions available.

Click on Apply for Jobs in the left margin.

Typically, graduate students are eligible for self-help positions and assistantships.

Students may not work more than 25 hours per week for campus employers

EMPLOYMENT & FUNDING

Graduate Assistantships Available on GradFunding Mailing List!

PIRATE PEARLS: FEBRUARY 2020
PIRATE PEARLS: FEBRUARY 2020

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/

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

Statistics and Research Workshops Offered by the Office For Faculty Excellence

Register at https://ofe.ecu.edu/office-for-faculty-excellence/ofe-sessions/

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Note: Research/statistics consulting on main campus is available at regular hours (8am-5pm, M-F). All workshops and consultations are open to graduate students.
Calling All Photographers!

Are you a graduate student who takes photographs or makes beautiful images in your science research?

If yes, then enter your best image in the first ever research image competition at Research and Creative Achievement Week (RCAW): “Capturing the Art of Science”!

This event is being hosted by the LASER Technologies Application Group (LASER TAG) on Friday, April 3 beginning at 1PM in Main Campus Student Center Room 249.

To enter the competition, send your image and a brief description of the research (no more than 5 sentences) to Dr. Karen Litwa at litwak16@ecu.edu. One entry per person. All entries must be received by Friday, March 20 at 5PM. You must be present to show your image and briefly describe your research. Undergraduate researchers will present from 1-2:30PM, and graduate student/post-doctoral researchers will present from 2:30-4PM.

Winning Submissions: Winning submissions will be displayed at A Time for Science. By entering the contest, you give us permission to display your research image at A Time for Science or other local venue. Audience choice awards, judges’ awards, and overall award will be presented. All areas of scientific research are welcome. Please email litwak16@ecu.edu if you have any questions.

Share the beauty of science with the ECU and Greenville community!


Are you worried that you do not have strong presentation skills to help you ace your presentation for your dissertation or master’s thesis defense? There is a resource on campus just for you!

Make an appointment at the Speech Communication Center! They are skilled at helping students strengthen their public speaking skills to ensure your research is communicated clearly and effectively to your audience.

Let them help you practice your oral defense so you feel confident and prepared and can “WOW” your committee with your skills!

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Share the beauty of science with the ECU and Greenville community!
What Is Financial Aid Payback?

There are times when a graduate student determines finishing classes is not possible during a semester. There may be personal life situations such as illness or employment that pull students away from their work and they are unable to provide their full attention to their studies. There are two ways to remove courses from a schedule - dropping (within the first 5 days of Fall/Spring or the first 2 days of summer sessions; nothing on the transcript) or withdrawing (W is on the transcript; if after deadline, and F or W is on transcript).

However, in both situations, the student may be in a “Financial Aid Payback” situation. This means, when the drop or withdrawal occurs, federal regulations require the Office of Financial Aid to review the student’s record to re-evaluate eligibility for financial aid. If the student is no longer eligible for the amount of aid received or no longer eligible for any financial aid, the student is required to pay back the financial aid to ECU immediately. This includes student loans and refunds the student may have received electronically.

All graduate students who are considering dropping a course (and not replacing it with another) or withdrawing from courses at some point in the semester must consult with the Office of Financial Aid first to determine the financial consequences. Once these are fully understood and arrangements are made, the student then should drop the course or send an email to the Registrar to withdraw from the course.

Students who are considering dropping courses or withdrawing from courses should consult with their advisor or graduate program director as well as the Office of Financial Aid before proceeding. Students are also welcome to email the Graduate School (gradschool@ecu.edu) with questions.

Financial Literacy is Important for All Graduate Students

ECU has partnered with SALTMoney.org, a free and unbiased nonprofit-backed education program that helps students obtain their college degree in a financially responsible way. SALT’s neutral advice, practical information, and interactive lessons help students gain money knowledge for college and beyond, keeping them on the path to success. College Foundation: Financial Literacy provides interactive materials, videos, and games designed to help students make responsible choices in managing their finances. College Foundation: Education Loan Debt Management provides guidance on loan repayment, consolidation, and default prevention. College Foundation: Student Financial Aid for North Carolinians is a booklet that contains a wide range of grants, scholarships, and loan opportunities to North Carolina residents.