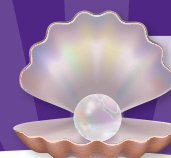


Pirate Pearls

THE GRADUATE STUDENT
NEWSLETTER



VOL 4, NO 8

Abstract Submissions for RCAF 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 RCAF 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 [RCAF 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!](#)

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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 - December 2](#)





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Spring 2020 Career Fairs

Pirate Nurse Expo & Fair

February 10, 2020

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Health Sciences Bldg - Nursing Lobby

Job & Internship Fair

February 20, 2020

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Greenville Convention Center

Engineering & Technology Fair

February 20, 2020

1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Greenville Convention Center

Education Job Fair

March 18, 2020

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Greenville Convention Center

Summer Job Fair

April 9, 2020

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Main Campus Student Center

Go to [Career Services' website](#) and click on [Events](#) to find out more about each Fair.

There's an App for that!!

Download the The Fairs App to view all upcoming ECU Job Fairs and employers who are attending!



Thesis/Dissertation Boot Camps during 2020

There are a variety of professional development opportunities for you in 2020 and you will be more likely to take advantage of them if you put them on your calendar now! If you are doing a thesis or dissertation and need more focused writing time, join us at Thesis-Dissertation Boot Camp which will be held three times in 2020. We need you to register so we are prepared for you. Click on the date to register!

[May 13, 14, 15](#) @ 8:30 AM, Joyner Library

[September 9, 10, 11](#) @ 8:30 AM, Joyner Library

Questions? Email Dr. Cox at coxka@ecu.edu

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

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://faculty senate.ecu.edu/academic-calendars/>



EMPLOYMENT & FUNDING

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

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](#).

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>



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/>

2/5 Wednesday	Walk-in consulting in Laupus Library (West Campus)	1:00-5:00pm	4512 Laupus Library	Dr. Hui Bian
2/6 Thursday	SPSS 2	2:30-4:30pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
2/13 Thursday	SPSS 3	3:00-5:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
2/19 Wednesday	Mixed research design	12:00-2:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
2/20 Thursday	Walk-in consulting in Laupus Library (West Campus)	8:00-11:00am	4512 Laupus Library	Dr. Hui Bian
2/26 Thursday	Multiple linear regression	1:00-3:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
3/4 Wednesday	Walk-in consulting in Laupus Library (West Campus)	1:00-5:00pm	4512 Laupus Library	Dr. Hui Bian
3/5 Thursday	Mediation and moderation	12:00-2:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
3/19 Thursday	SAS introduction	2:00-4:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
3/24 Tuesday	NVivo introduction	2:00-4:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Hui Bian
3/26 Thursday	Walk-in consulting in Laupus Library (West Campus)	8:00-11:00am	4512 Laupus Library	Dr. Hui Bian
3/26 Thursday	Single Case Research Designs	2:00-4:00pm	1008 Joyner Library	Dr. Bethany McKissick

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.

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/>



EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

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!

Thesis & Dissertation Defense Help Available!

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 prepped and can "WOW" your committee with your skills!

[SPEECH COMMUNICATION CENTER](#)

252-328-2790 or [ONLINE RESERVATIONS](#)

Graduating in Spring or Summer 2020?

The [application for graduate graduation](#) should be completed [at least one semester](#) prior to completion of the requirements of the degree or certificate. Application for graduation must be completed online through [PiratePort](#) in Banner Self Service. If there are curriculum changes after the student has applied to graduate or if the semester of graduation changes, it is the student's responsibility to notify the Office of the Registrar at regis@ecu.edu to have the graduation application updated. Students who complete the degree requirements after the last day of final exams in the intended term of graduation will be certified for graduation in a subsequent term. You must apply for a degree graduation and a certificate graduation separately, even if they are graduated the same semester



HELPFUL FINANCIAL INFO

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.

ECUAward Scholarship Portal

The Office of University Scholarships oversees many scholarships which are available to students at ECU, both undergraduates & graduate students. Scholarships are gifts of money that do not require repayment. Often based on merit, financial need, or leadership activities for example, there are numerous opportunities in the [portal](#). Students can apply for these scholarships by completing the [online application form](#) as well as the FAFSA. The portal will “match” students to scholarships and will also display scholarships that may be of interest that are not automatic match opportunities. Students are encouraged to complete the application each January for the following Fall/Spring terms.

Students should review the [website](#) and direct questions to scholarships@ecu.edu.