

Pirate Pearls

The Graduate Student Newsletter

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July 2016

End of Summer...

Start of Fall.....

We are coming to an end for Summer Session 2 and the 11-week summer semester and many of us are preparing for Fall 2016! Congratulations to those of you graduating this summer! We are so proud of you and appreciate that you completed your graduate education at ECU!



Don't forget that ECU Alumni Affairs has much to offer—including a permanent email address! Spend a few minutes looking through their website to find out how to stay connected to your Pirate Family!

<http://www.ecu.edu/graduates>

Research Resources

Research Ideas from College STAR and STEPP

Are you in search of a research topic for your thesis or dissertation? Consider this idea!

Join a College STAR Community of Practice (CoP): Are you interested in conducting research on instructional practices that align with the principles of Universal Design for Learning? CoPs are teams of individuals who come together to conduct research on a topic of the group's choice. Sample topics for CoPs being formed right now include:

Flipped Classroom: Information historically provided in class "lecture" is provided to students in advance of class so that classroom time may be used to support students hand's on application of new content by the instructor and teams of students. **Annotated Readings:** Vocabulary content packed class readings will be modified to include annotations that depict definitions of key terms, alternate explanations of key concepts, links to materials, etc. **Lecture Capture:** Software will be utilized to capture class content and tutoring sessions through video recordings linked in the classroom online management system. Students view those recordings multiple times and in locations/hours that are convenient to their study needs. **Transparency with Instructional methods:** Instructors will engage students in discussions about teaching and learning, and make explicit (a) rationale for instructional decisions and (b) possible associated learning/study techniques for students.

Anyone interested should contact Diane Majewski (majewskid@ecu.edu) or Sarah Williams (williamssar@ecu.edu). CoPs could begin immediately, or down the road if you are in the early stages of your graduate program.

New to Research? Make sure you have completed your CITI training modules and are familiar with the IRB website!

<http://www.ecu.edu/irb/>

Student Life Resources

Take Advantage of Campus Events!

Did you know there are hundreds of social, education, and career events on campus each semester? Many times graduate students don't get involved in campus life like they did when they were undergraduate students—and that's okay! But, we all need to blow off some steam to maintain our energy and enthusiasm for our work. Check out all that ECU has to offer for students!

[Student Activities Board](#)

[Student Government Association](#)

(The SGA Board is made up of graduate students this year!)

[Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#)

[OrgSync](#)

OrgSync is an online portal where student groups and the Office of Student Affairs post hundreds of events that are open to all students regardless of academic program or level. You do not have to be in an organization to create an account and log into OrgSync. Make a habit of checking it to see what is happening outside of the classroom or lab!

Want to enjoy more athletic events while you are in graduate school?

Take advantage of all that ECU Athletics and Campus Recreation & Wellness has to offer!

[Student Pirate Club](#)

[Club Sports](#)

[East Carolina Marching Pirates](#)

[Adventure Trips](#)

[Campus Recreation & Wellness](#)

[Equipment Rentals](#)

Academic Resources

Two Must-Reads Each Semester!

There are two resources that you should review and use on a regular basis:

[Academic Calendars](#)

The Academic Calendar is the official calendar for academic deadlines. It is posted 2-3 semesters in advance and should be consulted for planning. At the top of each academic calendar is a blue link for the Processing Calendar. This Calendar has specific dates for payments, schedule drops, and when to submit your thesis or dissertation in your semester of graduation.

[Graduate Catalog](#)

The Graduate Catalog is the guiding document of graduate education at ECU. It contains specific academic regulations information as well as requirements for each program. Whenever you have a question about a process, requirement, or procedure, it is important to review the Graduate Catalog so you are aware of the current policies of the Graduate School.

Deadlines for Fall 2016 (From Academic and/or Processing Calendars)

Aug 4—last day to pay without a processing fee

Aug 4—Schedules cancelled if not paid by 5:00 PM EST

Aug 22—classes begin

Aug 26—LAST DAY for schedule changes.

Aug 31—Schedules cancelled if not paid by 5:00 PM EST

Planning Ahead

Is Fall 2016 your graduation semester?

The Office of the Registrar has a helpful “how to graduate” guide! You can find it [here on their website](#). Most importantly, if you are graduating in Fall 2016, you must be complete the Graduation Application or “apply to graduate.” Again, there is a helpful [“How To” guide for you!](#) It is done online and it really should be done the semester prior to the graduation semester. Please do this today if you plan to graduate in December 2016.

Submitting a thesis or dissertation in Fall?

The deadline for uploading your thesis or dissertation to the VIREO system is December 1, 2016 at 5:00 PM EST. If you miss this deadline, your graduation date will likely be May, 2017. Talk to your director now about making sure you will meet this deadline. You can check out [VIREO on the Graduate School website](#) and start planning your upload. And don't forget to close your IRB when your research is complete.

Seeking Employment or Funding?

The Office of University Scholarships has an [online portal](#) that you can review to determine if you are eligible for any scholarships. Take a few minutes to log in and review the many options available for application!

[The Office of Student Employment](#) posts many job opportunities—some assistantships and some hourly “self help” employment. See what is there for you! Click the link and then click on Students, then Search Jobs.