

# Pirate Pearls

Vol 7 No 9 • March 2023



# SPRING BREAK!

## SPRING BREAK 2023



**Spring Break is March 5th - 12th. We wish you a wonderful, safe, and fun week off from classes!**

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### Thesis Or Dissertation Upload Deadline

Spring 2023 – April 20  
Summer 2023 – July 14  
Fall 2023 – November 29

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!

[View newsletter archive here.](#)



# IMPORTANT GRADUATION CEREMONY DETAILS

We want to recognize and celebrate your achievements at ECU's commencement ceremony and at college or department recognition ceremonies! These ceremonies provide opportunity for fellow students, faculty, staff, family, friends, etc. to honor and applaud your accomplishments, but there are some important details to which you must attend even as you complete your program of study. Make note of deadlines, dates and times of ceremonies, locations, etc. in the following text so that you and your support team do not miss anything.



The university ceremony for Spring 2023 Commencement will be in person at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Friday, May 5 at 10 a.m. All ECU spring 2023 graduates and eligible summer 2023 graduates, including those earning undergraduate, masters, doctoral and professional degrees, will be required to complete an RSVP form to participate in the university commencement ceremony. The RSVP form, which has a deadline of April 14, will be emailed to graduates and posted on the [ECU Commencement website](#). The required RSVP process will assist with logistical planning, guest seating and safety protocols. Students who have completed the RSVP by April 14 will receive additional emailed instructions.

ECU will host college-specific recognition ceremonies on campus May 5-6. Unlike the university commencement ceremony in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, each college recognition ceremony will require tickets for entry. Details for the college recognition are available on the [ECU Commencement website](#). Information about the RSVP, tickets for the college ceremonies and other logistical details will be emailed to those who have applied to graduate throughout March and April.

For questions about commencement, visit the [ECU Commencement website](#) or email [commencement@ecu.edu](mailto:commencement@ecu.edu).

# GRADUATION CHECKLIST

FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS



## ACADEMIC TASKS

- [Apply to Graduate](#) (Office of the Registrar).
- Review [Degree Works](#) with an advisor to ensure all degree requirements are met.
- [Upload a thesis or dissertation by the published deadline](#), if applicable.
- Review your program's requirements and submit documentation of capstone project, internship report, or other major projects, if applicable.
- Review your degree program's policy and arrange to take a comprehensive exam, if applicable.

## FINANCIAL TASKS

- Pay all campus balances due including library fines, parking tickets, student account (with [Cashier's Office](#)), student health center, etc.
- Return all borrowed equipment from your department, research lab, and student recreation centers.
- Complete Student Exit Loan Counseling if loans were received; see the email from [Financial Aid](#) or talk with your financial aid counselor.

## GRADUATION TASKS

- Review <https://commencement.ecu.edu> to find deadlines for important graduation tasks:
  - Order your cap & gown and purchase hood, **noting pick up dates/times**. Doctoral students rent commencement regalia by contacting the [Dowdy Student Store](#).
  - RSVP to attend the main graduation ceremony by published deadline.
  - RSVP to attend your department or college recognition ceremony by published deadline.
- Complete Graduate Student Exit Survey (GSES). This will arrive in your ECU email.
- Update your personal email address and add your cell phone number in PiratePort under “My Information” so the University can stay in touch with you.
- Respond to Graduate School emails about walking in the hooding ceremony if you are an EdD, PhD or DrPh graduate. Look for emails from Tania Alvarez (alvarezt@ecu.edu).
- **PhD students only:** Complete the Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED). Instructions emailed from Dean of Graduate School.

## RESEARCH TASKS

- Consult with the Institutional Review Board to learn how to “close out” the studies in [ePIRATE](#) If you are the primary investigator on research studies.
- Discuss with your research mentor and/or the Institutional Review Board how to store data collected as a part of your research assistantship, thesis, or dissertation.
- Ensure you have followed any necessary exit procedures from your research lab & employment.

## PERSONAL TASKS

- If you are planning to leave Greenville, review your lease to determine when to give your landlord notice that you will be moving out.
- Make an appointment with [Career Services](#) to polish your resume & get advice about job search.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



## DEADLINE FOR FULL-TERM COURSE WITHDRAWAL IS 23 MARCH

Thursday, 23 March is the 60% mark of the full-term fall semester. As such, 5:00 pm on that date it is the last time to withdraw from a full-term class or for the semester, without grades. It is our hope that very few students will need to withdraw, but life issues and other circumstances occur, and that is why this safety net exists. In fact, we interact with students at the end of every semester who should have withdrawn from classes but did not. Staying in a class or classes when there is no realistic chance for success can lead to probation or program dismissal. However, the Graduate School advises you to use course and term withdrawal wisely as you work to attain your educational goals. Following are some bits of wisdom from graduate students, faculty, graduate advisors, and program directors. Follow this advice before making any decisions:

- Check with your course instructor(s). They will be able to provide feedback about your potential to succeed in class.
- Do not assume you can take an incomplete for a course in which you are behind. Speak with your instructor if you believe circumstances might warrant an incomplete.
- Discuss options with your advisor. For example, if you are taking four courses and the overall load is too heavy, from which course could you withdraw to have the least impact on your plan of study?
- Communicate with your Financial Aid advisor about consequences of withdrawal. In some cases, you may learn that a course withdrawal has minimal consequences, but in other cases the ramifications may be much greater.
- A course withdrawal may or may not impact a graduate assistantship. Consult with your program director to be sure.

Finally, if you are having issues of any type in a class, communicate early and often with the appropriate individuals (instructor, advisor, program director, etc.). Some situations can be resolved early that may be unresolvable later.

## Attention Graduating PhD, EdD, and DrPh Students

The University Commencement Committee has a new editing procedure for the graduation program which will be more rigorous. PhD, EdD, and DrPh students who plan to have their name in the program must respond to the email from Tania Alvarez no later than March 13th. That is the final date they can make changes to their program entry including hometown, dissertation title, dissertation mentor, etc.

# TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

**DEI Commission's Student  
Access and Success  
Subcommittee  
Recommendations and  
Objectives Feedback Survey**

Click [HERE](#) OR  
Scan this QR Code:



Launched in fall 2021, Chancellor Philip Rogers established the Chancellor's Commission on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

The Student Access and Success Subcommittee has reviewed data and information and engaged in listening sessions across campus to hear about the university community's perspective about student access and success at ECU.

Resulting from these efforts, the Subcommittee has drafted a set of key objectives and recommendations and seeks your feedback about these outcomes.

If you have not already done so, please access a brief survey via the link or QR code below and tell us what you think. Final recommendations will be reported to the Chancellor and used to guide efforts to address disparities, adjust policies and practices, and establish DEI priorities.



## Research & Creative Achievement Week

Main Campus  
Student Center  
April 3-6

 ECUGradSchool

 #RCAW23

 [gradschool.ecu.edu](http://gradschool.ecu.edu)

The Graduate School and Research, Economic Development, and Engagement are excited to announce that we are planning our annual [Research and Creative Achievement Week \(RCAW\)](#). It will include in-person podium presentations, performances, showcases, and poster sessions as well as virtual posters featuring the research and creative activities of our students and post-doctoral scholars from across campus.

This is a great opportunity to present your research to fellow students, colleagues, faculty, and the local community in a professional, conference-style setting.

We will be accepting submissions from January 3rd through February 15th, 2023. All information will be available on [the RCAW website](#).

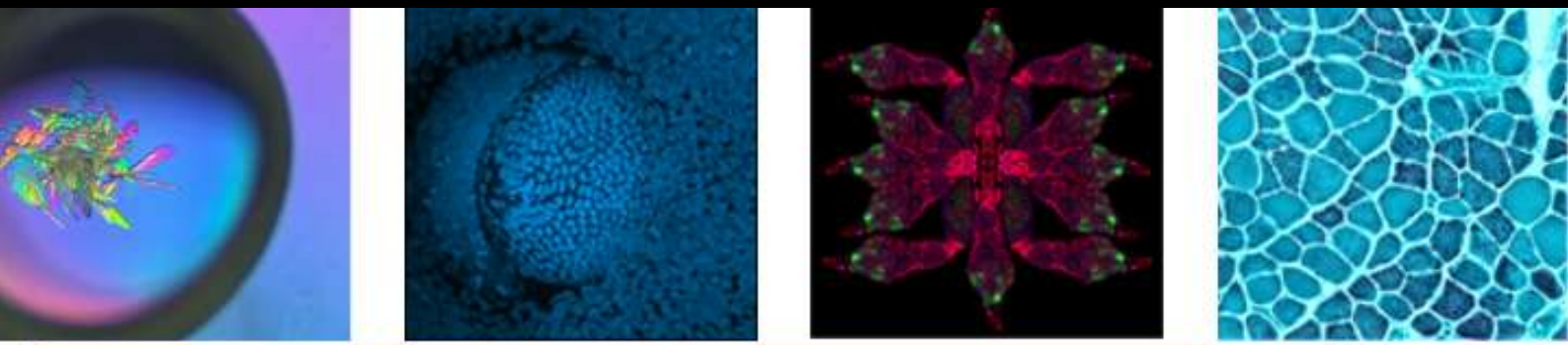
[The abstract submission system is now open!](#)

## [DEI Connect Conference](#)

Appalachian State University welcomes graduate student and postdoctoral researcher participation in [DEI Connect](#), a [research symposium](#) focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The event will be held on Wednesday, March 29 on the App State campus, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. The event will feature DEI-related research presentations, a skills roundtable, and opportunities for networking.

All attendees, whether presenters or not, must [register to attend](#). Please submit your registration by no later than Monday, March 6.

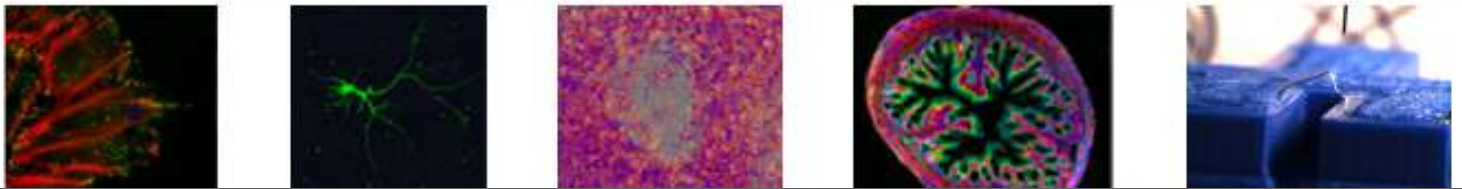




## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL "CAPTURING THE ART OF SCIENCE" IMAGE COMPETITION HOSTED BY LASER TAG\*

This event celebrates the beauty of scientific discovery. Entries are judged on aesthetics, originality, and relation to the described science. Winning images will be shared with the community and on social media (Twitter @ECLaserTag and Instagram lasertag\_2020). In previous years, winning entries have been displayed at the Scullery, the Art Lab, and NC Museum of Natural Sciences at Greenville. Competition is open to all ECU students and post-docs. To enter please submit an image from your research and a brief 3-5 sentence description of the research to Dr. Litwa at [litwak16@ecu.edu](mailto:litwak16@ecu.edu) by Friday, March 3, 2023. Winners will be announced during RCAW.

\*Laser Technology Applications Group (TAG) is an intellectual exchange group that is sponsored by the North Carolina Biotechnology Center.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual "Capturing the Art of Science" Image Competition Hosted by Laser TAG

To enter, submit your best research image\* and a brief research description\*\* to [litwak16@ecu.edu](mailto:litwak16@ecu.edu) by Friday, March 3, 2022.

\*Images can be edited and artistically stylized.

\*\*No more than 5 sentences.

Winners will be announced during RCAW.

Winning submissions will be displayed online and at the Scullery during May.

View the previous years' entries and winning submissions here:

[Laser TAG 2021 RCAW Image Competition](#)

[Laser TAG 2020 RCAW Image Competition](#)

**2022-2023**

# Research & Statistics Workshops

The table below shows the 2023 Spring statistics/research workshop schedule.

All sessions are virtual via Webex. Workshop materials will be emailed to participants prior to the session. I recommend that students register for these sessions in advance.

Students can get more information at <https://ofe.ecu.edu/office-for-faculty-excellence/research-and-stats/statistics-and-research-workshop-series/>. If you have any questions, you can email Dr. Bian at [bianh@ecu.edu](mailto:bianh@ecu.edu).

**Register for OFE workshops [here](#)  
Webex link to all sessions [here](#)**

## Research/Statistics Workshops for Spring 2023

Register for OFE workshops at <https://ofe.ecu.edu/office-for-faculty-excellence/research-and-stats/statistics-and-research-workshop-series/>

Webex link for all sessions: <https://ecu.webex.com/meet/bianh>

Date	Workshops	Registration link	Time	Location
3/1 Wednesday	Getting start on research: How to plan a meaningful and realistic thesis/dissertation study	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-2:30pm	Webex
3/16 Thursday	R Intro	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-3:00pm	Webex
3/22 Wednesday	Cluster analysis in SPSS	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-3:00pm	Webex
3/30 Thursday	Structural equation modeling	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-3:00pm	Webex
4/5 Wednesday	Poisson regression	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-3:00pm	Webex
4/13 Thursday	NVivo Introduction	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-3:00pm	Webex
4/19 Wednesday	Factor analysis	<a href="#">Link</a>	1:00-3:00pm	Webex

Note: Research/statistics consulting is available at regular hours (8am-5pm, M-F). All workshops and consultations are open to graduate students as well. Contact Dr. Hui Bian at [bianh@ecu.edu](mailto:bianh@ecu.edu)



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**  
**SPRING CAREER FAIRS**



**EDUCATION**  
**JOB FAIR**

**MARCH 15, 2023 • 9:30 A.M. – NOON**  
**GREENVILLE CONVENTION CENTER**

Professional business attire is required

For more information visit: [career.ecu.edu](http://career.ecu.edu)

View employers attending on *Handshake*



**ECU**

**CAREER SERVICES**

ADA Accommodation: 252-737-1018 • [ada-coordinator@ecu.edu](mailto:ada-coordinator@ecu.edu)

**Spring**  
**Education**  
**Career Fair**

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
March 15, 2023

Greenville  
Convention Center

On-campus students, bring your ECU OneCard for admittance. Alumni and distance education students should bring either an ECU OneCard, Banner ID, or student e-mail address to career fairs & events.

For information on upcoming career fairs login to Handshake or contact Career Services at [career@ecu.edu](mailto:career@ecu.edu).

2023

**S**  
**U**  
**M**  
**M**  
**E**  
**R**

**JOB FAIR**

March 29 • 1-4 p.m. • MCSC Ballrooms



**ECU 2023 Summer Job Fair**

**March 29, 2022 1-4 PM**

**MCSC Ballrooms**



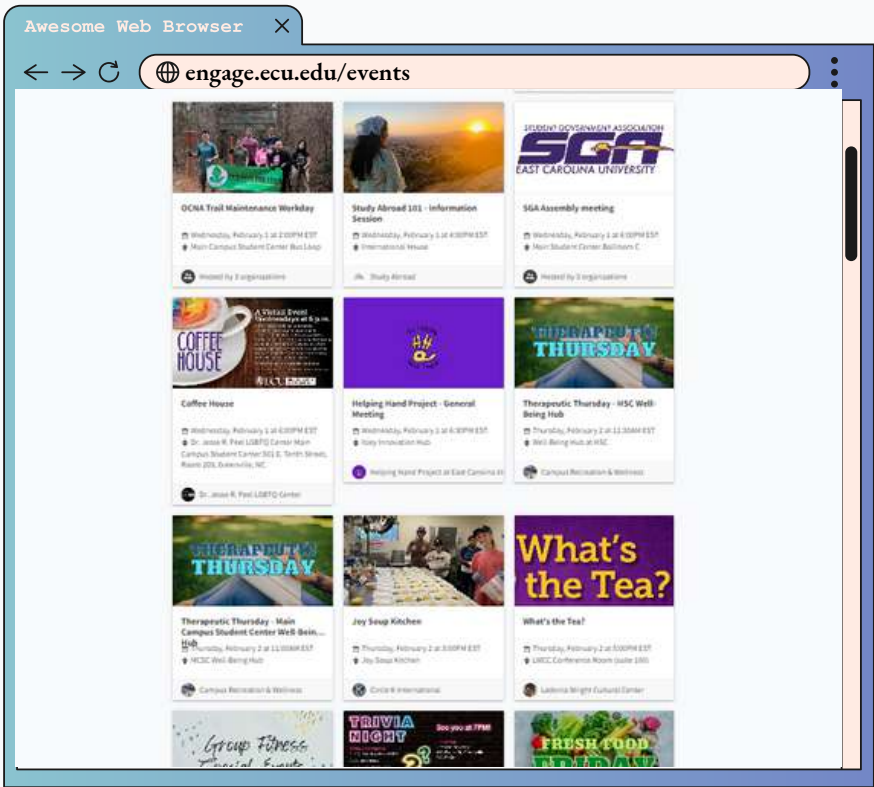
North Carolina Sea Grant has opened applications for the 2023-24 NC STEM Policy Post-Graduate Fellowship, with a deadline of March 27. Sea Grant continues to partner with the Burroughs Wellcome Fund and host offices to provide funding for the program's fourth year. Please see the information posted at <https://ncseagrants.ncsu.edu/news/2023/02/applications-open-for-2023-24-nc-stem-policy-post-graduate-fellowships/>. Note that the program contact is John Fear, [jmfear@ncsu.edu](mailto:jmfear@ncsu.edu), 919-515-9104.

**S T U D E N T   A F F A I R S**

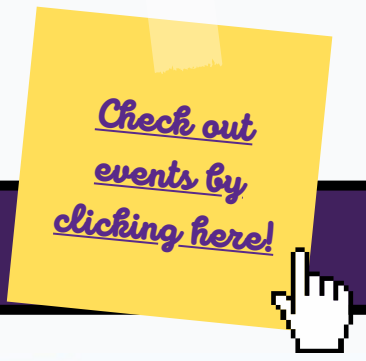
**GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP  
RECRUITMENT  
PROGRAM**

Student Affairs has posted several new GA positions for 2023-24.  
They can be found here  
(<https://studentaffairs.ecu.edu/garecruitment/>).

# INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES ON CAMPUS? CHECK OUT ENGAGE!



Looking for entertainment?  
 A local volunteer opportunity?  
 Athletic event? Information session?  
 Professional development?  
 Health/wellness or fitness event?  
[Check out this page!](#)



## Upcoming Events Include:



### Study Abroad 101 - Information Session

**Date and Time**  
 Wednesday, March 1 2023 at 4:00 PM EST to  
 Wednesday, March 1 2023 at 5:00 PM EST  
[Add To Google Calendar](#) | [Calendar](#)

**Location**  
 International House  
 306 East 9th Street, Greenville, NC  
[View Map](#)



### Camping & Climbing - Pilot Mountain

**Date and Time**  
 Saturday, March 25 2023 at 7:00 AM EDT to  
 Sunday, March 26 2023 at 7:00 PM EDT  
[Add To Google Calendar](#) | [Calendar](#)

**Location**  
 Pilot Mountain, NC



### Mental Illness Discussion Series

**Date and Time**  
 Monday, March 20 2023 at 7:00 PM EST to  
 Monday, March 20 2023 at 8:00 PM EST  
[Add To Google Calendar](#) | [Calendar](#)

**Location**  
 Online

**Online Location**  
[Join Event Online](#)



### Therapeutic Thursday - HSC Well-Being Hub

**Date and Time**  
 Thursday, March 30 2023 at 11:30 AM EDT to  
 Thursday, March 30 2023 at 1:30 PM EDT  
[Add To Google Calendar](#) | [Calendar](#)

**Location**  
 Well-Being Hub at HSC



### Diversity Dialogue Series

**Date and Time**  
 Monday, March 20 2023 at 3:00 PM EDT to  
 Monday, March 20 2023 at 4:00 PM EDT  
[Add To Google Calendar](#) | [Calendar](#)

**Location**  
 MSCS Suite 100B (LWCC)



### Intramural Trivia

**Date and Time**  
 Thursday, March 30 2023 at 7:00 PM EDT to  
 Thursday, March 30 2023 at 9:00 PM EDT  
[Add To Google Calendar](#) | [Calendar](#)

**Location**  
 Uptown Brewery

# MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

*Learn about a continuum of  
mental health resources available  
to support your well-being!*

**MARCH 22 • WEDNESDAY**

4:00 – 5:15 PM

VIRTUAL ON TEAMS



## **Presenters:**

***Valerie Kisler-van Reede***

*Director/Licensed Psychologist  
Center for Counseling and Student Development*

***Steven Trotter***

*Director of Well-being  
Campus Recreation and Wellness*





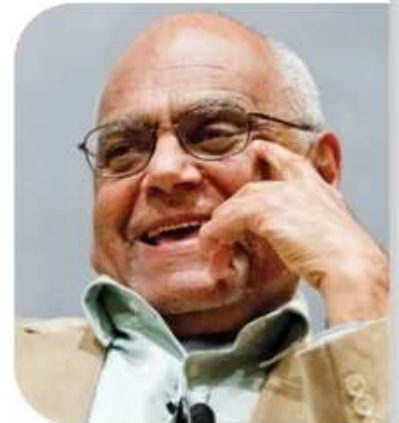
## About ETS

We believe in the life-changing power of learning. For the last 75 years, we've been driven by a vision of what's possible when all people can improve their lives through education. It's why our uncompromising commitment to equity and fairness is behind everything we do.

## Robert (Bob) Moses Scholarship

This annually awarded national scholarship is designed to support the educational goals of a graduate student from an underrepresented group who is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in mathematics education or a STEM discipline. The individual should also have a commitment to civic engagement.

The inaugural scholarship is named in honor of the late Bob Moses, a pioneering civil rights leader and educator who founded The Algebra Project, a national U.S. mathematics literacy program aimed at helping low-income students and students of color achieve the mathematical skills in high school that are a prerequisite for success in college and beyond.



## Scholarship Award: \$15,000

## Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Any student who:

- is enrolled as a master's or doctoral student in good standing at a public or private U.S. university during the 2022–2023 academic school year
- demonstrates leadership abilities and commitment to community service
- demonstrates financial need
- is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident with a valid permanent resident card or passport stamped I-551

## How To Apply

To apply for the scholarship, you must provide:

- a one-page statement outlining financial need
- the official transcript for your most recently completed academic term; this should include your Fall 2022 grades and cumulative GPA
- two recommendation letters (one should be from a school advisor or the chair of the dissertation committee)
- two original essays, answering the following essay questions (maximum of 500 words per question):
  - Describe how your approach to learning is aligned with the work of Bob Moses.
  - Tell us a bit about yourself, your background, why you should be awarded the Robert (Bob) Moses Scholarship and how this scholarship will help you support underserved communities.

## Timeline

Application Portal Open: **February 1, 2023**

Application Deadline: **April 3, 2023**

Winner Notified: **May 15, 2023**

For more information, contact [ETSScholarships@ets.org](mailto:ETSScholarships@ets.org)

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**The Robert "Bob" Moses Scholarship is a national scholarship opportunity designed to support a graduate student from an underrepresented group who is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in mathematics education or a STEM discipline. The scholarship award is \$15,000 and the application deadline is April 3, 2023.**



# SPRING 2023 SCHEDULE: IMPORTANT DATES

## 15-Week Calendar

March 5 - 12, Sunday - Sunday	Spring Break -- Classes resume at 8:00 am Monday, March 13.
March 13 - 17, Monday - Friday	Advising for Summer Sessions and Fall Semester 2023
March 23, Thursday	Last day for undergraduate and graduate students to withdraw from term-length courses or withdraw from school without grades, by 5:00 pm; block courses may be dropped only during the first 60% of their regularly scheduled class meetings.
March 24, Friday	Early registration for special populations begins at 1:00 pm.
March 27, Monday	Registration for Summer Sessions and Fall Semester 2023 begins.
April 7 - 8, Friday - Saturday	State Holiday (no classes)
April 12, Wednesday	Survey of Student Opinion of Instruction (SSOI) becomes available.
April 13, Thursday	Last day for undergraduate students to submit work for removal of incompletes given during Fall 2022

## Alternate Block

BLOCK 2	
February 27, Monday	Classes begin; schedule adjustments.
March 1, Wednesday	Last day for registration and schedule adjustments (drop/add), by 5:00 p.m.
March 5-12 Sunday-Sunday	Spring break – Classes resume at 8:00 am Monday, March 13.
April 3, Monday	Last day for undergraduate and graduate students to withdraw from Block 2 courses by 5:00 p.m.
April 12, Wednesday	Survey of Student Opinion of Instruction (SSOI) becomes available
April 19, Wednesday	Classes end.
May 8, Monday	Grades due at 8:00 am

### GRADUATION APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Spring - February 15th

Summer - March 1st

Students who will complete all degree requirements in Spring or Summer are eligible to participate in the University Spring commencement ceremony. Students who complete degree requirements in Summer and who did not participate in the University Spring commencement ceremony have the option to participate in the University Fall commencement ceremony.

Please remember that there are separate academic calendars for the 15-week semester and the Alternative Block schedules. Make sure to check the corresponding calendars if you have a mix of block & 15-week courses this semester.