

Graduate Community Town Hall

with

- Doug Doren, *Interim Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Dean of the Graduate College*
- Mary Martin, *Associate Vice Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and Associate Dean of the Graduate College*
- LaRuth McAfee, *Senior Assistant Dean*
- Suprawee Tepsuporn, *Assistant Dean for Graduate Professional Development*



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
GRADUATE COLLEGE

Where are you joining from (City, State, or Country)?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 83 02 44

Guidance for this Town Hall

Please remain muted and ask questions through the chat feature. All questions will remain anonymous when read.

If you would like to remain anonymous to all, please use the private messaging feature and direct your question to Caitlin Hutchison.

If your question is highly-specific, i.e. you do not think it would benefit the group to ask, or of a personal nature, please email Mary Martin (marym@udel.edu) directly.

Agenda

- Review of guidance and resources for graduate students and postdocs
- Upcoming Virtual Events for Graduate Students
- Your Questions and Concerns

Guidance for Graduate Students

- Resources for graduate students summarized at banner on Grad College web site grad.udel.edu/about/covid-19-update-for-grad-students/
 - Academics, including Research, Teaching, Theses and Dissertations, Access to Technology, Travel
 - Health and Well-being, including Health Insurance, Mental Health, Discrimination, Domestic Violence, Food Insecurity, Finances and Emergency Loans
- Resources provided by the Division of Student Life at the newly launched Student Life Hub sites.udel.edu/studentlife/
- Ongoing official Updates from the University
 - www.udel.edu/home/coronavirus/



Academic Policies for Graduate Students

- Pass/No Credit grade option for graduate students
 - Announced in email on Tuesday
 - www.udel.edu/home/coronavirus/academic-regulations/#grad
 - At the end of the session (including Spring A online session), faculty will assign normal grades
 - Students will have one week after grades are submitted to opt in to Pass/No Credit for any course (except Research/Thesis/Dissertation courses)
 - Three grades
 - High Pass for B- and above
 - Pass for C- and above
 - No Credit for below C-
- Withdraw or change to Listener status until May 1 (no fee) **Send email to Mary**



Professional Development Events

Building Your Professional Brand Apr 4 | 10 - 11:30am

Career Lab – Interview Prep & Practice Apr 8 | 1:30 - 2:30pm (for all graduate students)

Virtual Network Presence Apr 7 | 5pm (for international students)

Building Your Public Speaking Confidence & Getting Rave Reviews Apr 11 | 10 - 11:30am

Applying Your PhD to a Career in Innovation Apr 15 | 11am - 12pm

Perfecting the Interview Apr 15 | 5pm (for international students)

Career Lab - Salary Negotiation Strategies Apr 21 | 1:30 (for all graduate students)

Sign up for events and 1:1 career appointments in Handshake!



Diversity Events

Covid-19: Questions and Concerns for Graduate Students of Color: Q & A with University Leadership Apr 7 | 12-1:15pm

All are welcome, please RSVP here: <http://www.udel.edu/007242> and Submit Webinar Topics and Questions to vpd@udel.edu

Panel on Being a Graduate Student of Color at a Predominately White Institution, event TBA, week of April 20th



Graduate Student Government Events

- Social Events
 - GSG Movie Night: *What We Do in the Shadows*. Apr 3 | 7pm
 - Synchronized viewing begins at 7:05pm. Movie is available on Kanopy through the library. <https://udel.zoom.us/j/981792889>
 - GSG Craft Night Apr 6 | 7pm
- Official Events
 - GSG Monthly Meeting Apr 8 | 7-9pm
 - With Happy Hour for GSG members prior to meeting 6pm
 - GSG Monthly Meeting May 13 | 7-9pm



Virtual Writing Session

- **Writing Hens** Next session Apr 10 | 9am-1pm
- <https://www.writinghens.org> or search UDWritingHens on Facebook

Teaching Events

- **Biweekly Conversations for CTAL and Faculty Commons for instructors and graduate assistants.** Fridays beginning April 10 | *Further Details TBA in Faculty Commons Newsletter*
- **Info Sessions and Discussion Group for TAs** Later in April | *Details TBA*

Both the [Faculty Commons](#) and the [Center for Teaching and Assessment of Learning \(CTAL\)](#) have excellent resources to support effective distance learning on their course continuity websites.

<https://sites.udel.edu/ats/conferencing/zoom/security/> For Issues with Zoombombers



Proposed Events

- **Chats with Dean Doren and Deans of each Colleges**
- **Weekly Open Forum Chat with Mary Martin**
- **Other Synchronized Social Events**, such as a Ted Talk or Radio listen and chat

Please share any departmental virtual events or social event ideas with Caitlin Hutchison (chutch@udel.edu)

FAQ

- Graduation? To be announced. The university is still considering options amid the prolonged and changing nature of the Covid epidemic
- Status of University in late summer/next semester: How long should we plan to do things online or when will we allowed back on campus?
- Travel: Will funding for travel resume this school year when the situation normalizes? When will the Univ. lift restrictions for Univ.-sponsored travel, considering Delaware has different restrictions than other states.
- Student Fees? All students will receive adjustments to fees for certain services, including recreation and student activities and student center fees. Parking services will be issuing adjustments to permit holders effective March 18th and will be refunding to student accounts. Credits based on prorated adjustments will be reflected in account by April 22 and you will receive an email.
- Changes to payment plans?
- Flexible timelines for Academic/Research Progress? Are you working with faculty to make sure new guidelines are understood?
- Is it likely that we will be able to ease the work restrictions for University Graduate Students?

If you had a more specific question about funding and awards- We will follow-up with you.

Your Questions and Concerns

- Please write questions in chat. All questions will remain anonymous
 - If your question personal or highly-specific please email Mary Martin (marym@udel.edu) directly.



Our Questions

Are you satisfied with how your department communicates with you regarding guidelines and support?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 64 68 04

What types of virtual events would you like the Graduate College to organize?

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 64 68 04



Thank you!

Research

All on-campus research has been restricted to essential activities. Building access will be provided only for the most critical needs (e.g., maintaining animals, critical cell cultures, unique reagents, essential equipment and materials). Graduate student researchers should work with their advisers or PI to plan efforts that will allow them to engage in research remotely. Find additional guidance and protocols—including access to Virtual Town Halls recorded on March 16 and 24—on [this webpage](#).

Teaching

Students employed as teaching assistants should work with faculty in charge of their courses to plan how they will support online teaching. Both the [Faculty Commons](#) and the [Center for Teaching and Assessment of Learning \(CTAL\)](#) have excellent resources to support effective distance learning on their course continuity websites. CTAL will partner with Faculty Commons colleagues to offer bi-weekly conversations designed to help instructors and graduate assistants succeed in a digital learning environment. Specific details are forthcoming and will be published on the CTAL website. While specific assignments may change with the shift to online classes, expectations for TA workloads are the same, being limited to 20 hours per week, on average.

Theses and Dissertations

Please plan to have committee meetings and dissertation defenses remotely. You do not need to be on campus to submit a thesis or dissertation. Electronic signatures will be accepted on the signature pages and defense forms. The signed signature pages will be accepted as attachments, and the Graduate College will print to bond paper. There is some flexibility in deadlines for submission in time for Spring 2020 graduation. Please contact [Mary Martin](#) for additional details.



Finances

Graduate stipends

The President and Provost have asked that faculty continue to support graduate students in their current roles, even if they are unable to continue their work in person, with compensation at current levels. Due to the range of different work they do, research assistants (RAs), teaching assistants (TAs) and graduate assistants (GAs) may each be affected differently. Individuals should ask their supervisor about how to continue carrying out their work responsibilities. In many cases, their work assignments will change so that they can be productive without coming to campus. For example, TAs may be asked to support online courses, and most graduate student researchers will have to do work that does not require access to a laboratory.

Financial Hardship

Although the University is committed to continuity of pay for graduate students on contract, we recognize that other factors related to COVID-19 may have an impact on finances. Emergency loans (up to \$1,000) are available from the Graduate College for students on contract. Please contact **Mary Martin** to apply. The Student Financial Services Office also has an emergency loan program (up to \$500). The contact for these loans is **Joseph Bradley**.

The University of Delaware's Student Crisis Fund also supports eligible students who face a serious financial hardship due to an unanticipated crisis. Situations are considered on a case-by-case basis, and the fund may be able to help with such issues as food or home insecurity, out-of-pocket medical costs or other emergencies. Learn more or apply by visiting **<https://sites.udel.edu/deanofstudents/support/#crisisfund>**.



Health and Wellbeing

Discrimination

Discriminatory actions do not align with our community values. To officially report an incident of discrimination, please visit <https://sites.udel.edu/oei/> to file a complaint with the Office of Equity and Inclusion. If this is a criminal matter, contact UD Police at 302-831-2222 (non-emergency number).

Domestic Violence

Students can contact the [Center for Counseling & Student Development](#) at 302- 831-2141 or 302-831-1001 for after-hours emergencies, or contact Student Health Service at 302-831-2226 or University Police at 911 or 302-831-2222 (non-emergency number). Faculty and staff may contact the Employee Assistance Program within Human Resources at 302-831-2171.

Health and Wellbeing

Health Insurance

Many graduate students have purchased health insurance from Aetna through UD. Aetna has made special accommodations for students who need testing, treatment or counseling services related to COVID-19. Please visit [their site](#) for the most current information.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Everyone should make an effort to maintain social ties and reduce the impact of isolation. Students who feel overwhelmed during this period may contact the [Center for Counseling & Student Development](#) at 302-831-2141 or 302-831-1001 for after-hours emergencies.

- Note: Due to the rapidly evolving situation, the Center for Counseling & Student Development (CCSD) will not conduct face-to-face meetings. Please call CCSD 302-831-2141 (or the UD Helpline 24 hours a day, 302-831-1001) if you are in need of emergency assistance or consultation. For updates, please visit their website at <https://sites.udel.edu/counseling/>. An additional resource available to all is the National Suicide Hotline at 800-273-835

Health and Wellbeing

Groceries and Food Insecurity

Many local grocery stores offer delivery services.

- Acme Markets <https://shop.acmemarkets.com/>
- Food Lion <https://www.foodlion.com/promotions/to-go/>
- For those who need assistance with food, there are local nonprofits that offer additional resources.
- The Food Bank of Delaware <https://www.fbd.org/get-help/>
- Blue Hen Bounty Food Pantry bluehenbounty@gmail.com



Technology

UD IT offers information for [working from home](#), [learning from home](#) and [teaching from home](#). These resources provide step-by-step instructions and tips for connecting remotely.

Here are [free Internet Essentials resources](#) for remote learning.

Charter Spectrum Broadband is also [offering free service](#).

Also, please know that many broadband and wifi providers are offering free and/or reduced access to students who are impacted by the coronavirus situation. See this [article from Forbes](#) for additional information.

For graduate students who need access to laptops, please email grad@udel.edu.

Travel

All University-sponsored or affiliated travel, including domestic travel, is temporarily suspended until further notice. The University is also discouraging personal travel to reduce risks for exposure in other locations that may present higher risk. Please review the [Travel FAQ](#) for the latest information on other restrictions. Members of our community are reminded to register all travel plans with the University's Office of Risk Management on [this form](#). Graduate students who received funding through a Graduate College Travel Award for meetings that have been canceled, or who need to change plans, should contact [Carol Steinbrecher](#). It is our intention that students not have to bear the cost of any changes.

