

Graduate Community Town Hall

with

- Doug Doren
- Mary Martin
- LaRuth McAfee
- Suprawee Tepsuporn
- Michael Alexo
- Elizabeth Salisbury
- Caitlin Hutchison (moderating)



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
GRADUATE COLLEGE

Guidance for this Town Hall

Participants will be muted. Please ask questions through the chat feature.

Caitlin will ask questions, Doug and Grad College staff will respond.

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 grad@udel.edu and we will respond later.

Agenda

- Current Students
- Incoming Students
- Your Questions and Concerns



Grad College Newsletter

- News, grad student highlights, calendar of events, survey
 - Every other week, Sunday evening
 - Submit leads for student profiles:
<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/27cba959b4e04de19562cd80715ba58d>
 - Send ideas for stories to grad@udel.edu
- Survey is a chance to get regular input from students, track changes
 - First time: 132 responses
 - 40% masters, 60% doctoral
 - 70% in years 1-2, 30% years 3-5
 - Demographic questions about ethnicity and gender were not included at this time, in order to make students feel more at ease when completing it.



Survey #1

- Do you feel as though you are getting sufficient information from your program(s) or faculty on the revised expectations for academic and/or research progress?
 - 72% Yes
 - 28% No
- What are the most frustrating/undesirable aspects of being remote for you?
- What have you enjoyed about being a remote student?

Survey Open Response - Concerns

- Not able to do planned work, no access to labs, library, etc.
 - Time to degree
 - Funding
- Lack of informal interactions, community
 - Hard to ask questions, learn from others
 - Isolation, loneliness
- No separation of work, home
 - Work-life balance, conflicts of family and work responsibilities
 - Limited space, distractions, motivation

Survey Open Response – More Concerns

- Tech issues
 - Internet access
 - Small screens, ergonomics
 - Too much screen time
 - Whiteboard equivalent?

Survey Open Response – More Concerns

- Classes
 - Discussions, group work harder
 - some faculty report more open discussions
 - Workload has gone up for some
 - Some faculty are still learning to be effective online
- Teaching
 - Some TAs have been asked to do more in online environment
 - NOTE: TA contract is limited to 20 hours/week on average

Survey Open Response – Positives

- No commute time
- More independence, flexibility
- Fewer interruptions, greater productivity
- Can review recorded lectures

Next Survey (this coming Sunday)

- How have your plans for degree completion been affected?
- Do you have concerns about continuity of funding?

Mentoring Resources

- Julie Posselt (Follow her!)
 - <https://twitter.com/JuliePosselt/status/1239203733340217344>
- Mentoring during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01028-x?>
- Graduate Advising in the Time of Covid-19
 - https://www.chronicle.com/article/Graduate-Advising-in-the-Time/248506?cid=wcontentgrid_hp_9

Supporting Graduate Students for Summer

- Departments have plans for most continuing students
- Can use TAs, RAs, miscellaneous wage support
- Students completing degrees must be registered for summer
 - Sustaining fees can be avoided
 - Contact Mary Martin for guidance
- Doctoral students without support for summer can apply for Graduate College summer funding
 - <https://grad.udel.edu/fees-and-funding/summer-doctoral-fellowship/>

Support for Students with Delayed Graduation

- Primarily about research-based degrees
- Working with colleges to assess needs and resources available
- Expect to be able to provide some central support to complement funding from grants, programs and colleges
- Hoping for additional support from federal agencies, development
- UD is committed to helping students complete degrees

Career Support for Graduate Students

- **Posting on-campus employment opportunities for grad students**

<https://forms.gle/RCePSGrxTVNZTytB9>

- **Career support from the Career Center**

[Employer Recruiting & Hiring Trends](#)

[Virtual Career Coaching and Resources for Students Needing Assistance](#)

[Employer Engagement, Alumni Networking, and Career Programming & Advice](#)

[College, School & Department Collaboration with the Career Center & DAR to Support Students](#)



Virtual Career Programs for Graduate Students

- **13th Annual NIH Career Symposium | May 8 | 8am – 4pm**
[https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/2823/13th Annual NIH Career Symposium](https://www.training.nih.gov/events/view/2/2823/13th%20Annual%20NIH%20Career%20Symposium)
- **Advancing Your Career During the Pandemic | May 8 | 12:30 – 1:30pm**
<https://udel.joinhandshake.com/events/487858>
- **Making the Most of Networking During the Pandemic | May 13 | 12:30 – 1:30pm**
<https://udel.joinhandshake.com/events/487867>



For Next Graduate Program Director Town Hall

- Graduate Professional Development
- New career readiness initiatives for graduate students
 - Accelerate to Industry (A2i) for STEM trainees
 - Beyond the Academy Series for humanities, arts, and social sciences trainees

Policies and Help 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/

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*

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

Incoming Students

- Current admission numbers slightly ahead of last year
- Stay in touch with your students
 - Make them feel connected
 - Let them know when labs re-open, or other milestones are passed
 - Show that we still have an active academic life, even while remote

Incoming International Students

- Visas may be delayed, students may not arrive for fall
- Students can't be paid if out of the country (current HR policy)
- ITA training will be done online, starting in July
 - I-20s will be sent for matriculation in Fall
 - ITA will be paid the ELI stipend, but cannot be paid while they are living abroad. When they register, we plan to pay it as a credit to their student account. They can use the money to pay their fees, or they can get a refund.

International Admissions – English Proficiency

- Students can take TOEFL @ Home, IELTS instead of going to testing center
 - Not available in China
- iTEP Academic can be taken online, even in China- *Email Michael Alexo, malexo@udel.edu, for more information about iTEP*
 - Methodology supported by ELI, comparison scores available
 - Some security concerns
 - Grad College will accept on pilot basis, if programs want to use it
 - Also being piloted by undergrad admissions

Virtual Words for Nerds – May 12, 5 pm

- Charles Bergquist, Science Friday (NPR) and UD alum
- Challenges the media face when reporting on research right now.
 - What could the science community do to help?
 - What could the media do better?
- And answering your questions
- Register at

https://udel.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwlcOiorj4vG9by2P_A4BnxJ9-GYPISkokv

Many, many thanks to Dawn Fallik and Joshua Zide

Your Questions and Concerns

If your question personal or highly-specific please email grad@udel.edu

– Some Answers to FAQ

- No updates from President and Provost yet on the nature of how fall classes will proceed. Current plan is to gradually introduce groups back onto campus
- The Graduate College is working closely with international students and OISS regarding obtaining and extending student visas, please email Mary Martin marym@udel for specific questions
- Graduation ceremonies still on hold, as we await further instruction for the university-wide planned events
- Nominations and letters of interest are currently being accepted for the Interim Dean of the Graduate College. Applications (a letter of interest and comprehensive curriculum vitae in one PDF file) should be submitted to the [UD Careers site](#), through the Current Opportunities UD Employees icon by May 22. Nominations or expressions of interest can be submitted via this [confidential form](#). Interviews will take place during June, with the goal to have the new dean in place by July 1.



Thank you!

Watch for our next Town Hall later in May