

Important Dates

We acknowledge that this is a challenging time for our students, the faculty and staff. Therefore, we will extend the utmost flexibility to students being negatively impacted by COVID-19. We have already extended some deadlines to reflect this trying time and will accept exception requests due to COVID-19.

April 1

- Extension: Registration Required ETD Deadline
- Extension: Apply to Graduate Deadline

April 15

- Extension: Final Error Free ETD Deadline

April 20-23

- Last week of classes

April 23

- Last day of classes

April 24

- ETD Committee Approval Deadline

April 27-May 5

- Final Examinations

Graduate School COVID-19 Website

We have created a [website](#) to help answer questions during this unprecedented time. We will update the site as information changes.

Admissions

In response to the temporary closings of testing centers in countries impacted by the COVID-19 epidemic, the Graduate School will now accept Duolingo English Test examination results. The Duolingo English Test will be accepted as an alternative to TOEFL and IELTS for proof of English proficiency for impacted applicants. Duolingo English tests taken between Feb. 3 and July 31, 2020, will be accepted.

To be admitted, a minimum score of 105 will be required. In addition to providing a score at or above the minimum, the Graduate School or graduate programs may choose to require students to participate in a Zoom or Skype interview prior to making an admission decision.

Transcript Drop-off

The Graduate School office is closed, and staff are working remotely. Within the next week, we expect to have a drop-box installed outside of our office doors, where courier services and students can drop off materials (mainly transcripts). A staff member will check the drop-box at least once per week. We are encouraging all applicants to have official transcripts delivered to us electronically, when possible. If they use a courier service, they should not require a signature upon delivery, or we may not receive their documents.

Current students dropping off official transcripts and/or degree statements should put them inside an envelope marked with their name and student ID number and a brief explanation (i.e. - their plan of work needs approval, or they are trying to graduate and need to provide official complete transcripts and a degree statement). If they want the official documents returned, they must include a self-addressed envelope (we will pay the postage). We appreciate your assistance relaying these details, if you get questions.

Summer Enrollment Exceptions

Exceptions to summer enrollment will be considered only if there is clear evidence that a defense planned for the Spring or prior to the no-registration deadline was disrupted by COVID-19. A form (COVID-19 Defense Exceptions) will be available on our [website](#) next week.

Transcripts for Students Recommended for Admission

We recognize that it may be difficult for applicants to provide us with official transcripts at this time. In order to continue processing admissions in a timely fashion, we will temporarily admit students based on their unofficial

transcripts, under the conditions that they provide us with an official transcript by October 2020. We will do this for any applicant who has been recommended for admissions and has indicated their intention to enroll via Slate. International applicants must pass international clearance first, unless they will be in a distance subplan.

Visa Issuance for Admitted Students

The U.S. Consulates across the globe have temporarily suspended F-1 and J-1 Student Visa interview scheduling. At this point, there is no clear indication as to when they will reopen in a given country. However, as international applicants are approved for admission, the Graduate School will continue to issue I-20 and DS-2019 visa eligibility documents for the upcoming Summer/Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters to allow applicants to schedule visa interviews as soon as possible after the U.S. Consulates re-open.

If applicants notify you that they are unable to obtain a student visa and arrive in time to begin studies in Summer or Fall 2020, please provide them with the following options:

- If your graduate program has an approved distance education (DE) subplan, the applicant could change to the DE subplan and pursue the degree online.
- If your graduate program does not have an approved DE subplan but does have distance education/virtual courses available, students could be admitted into the on-campus programs but take courses virtually for their first term.
 - Note due to SACS accreditation, students cannot take more than 25% of their total program hours as DE if they are not in an approved DE subplan. Therefore, master's students can only take a total of six credit hours as DE during the Summer or Fall. This option allows on-campus students to start their program without delay. After passing international clearance, an I-20 or DS-2019 would be issued for on-campus attendance in Spring 2021.
- Defer the applicants admission start term to Spring 2021 or Fall 2021 (applications can be deferred up to one year from the original admit term). There is no deadline to request a deferment, so please encourage applicants to take their time in considering all options regarding attendance.

In any of these situations the Graduate School would need to be notified in order to update the applicant appropriately. Please compile the list of applicants daily and send them in one email (instead of multiple emails) to your liaison.

Professional Development

The Graduate School Professional Development Team will continue to offer support to graduate students and postdocs through virtual platforms. Our current offerings include workshops, the [Academic Packways](#) career preparation program, and a [Writing Retreat](#). We will continue to add programming, so please check our [workshops page](#) regularly. In addition, our team is happy to provide one-on-one virtual consultations on writing, teaching, career planning and more to students and postdocs on request. Contact Vanessa Doriott Anderson (vkdoriot@ncsu.edu) with questions.

Pack Essentials

Students who are experiencing challenges due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) should submit a [Pack Essentials](#) application. Please note that those are processed by the Ombuds Office, but given the volume of requests the response time may be longer than usual. Please submit only one application per student.