**Important Dates**
October 2
- Drop Deadline - Last day to withdraw or drop a course, without a W grade.

October 8
- Schedule for 2021 Spring term published; Shopping Cart opens

October 19
- Enrollment begins for spring 2021

November 2
- Deadline to apply to graduate in the fall 2020 term
- Registration required ETD review deadline - date by which a thesis or dissertation student must submit the ETD for review to graduate at the end of the fall

**Course Drop Policy Change**
Effective spring 2021, any courses dropped after census date will result in a W grade on the transcript. REG 02.20.02 – Adding and Dropping Courses now states:
*3.3.1. Undergraduate and **graduate** student course drops after census date are considered to be course withdrawals and will result in a W grade on the transcript.*

Please relay this information to students during the enrollment advising period. There has been a practice in some departments to encourage students to over-enroll with the intention of dropping a course after census.  This type of practice will now result in a W on the students transcript.

**Revised Grading & Late Drop Policies for Graduates**
Fall graduates have the ability to change a course to S/U or drop a course up until the time they are cleared for graduation.  Once the graduation clearance page is updated they cannot update their course to S/U or drop the course, since this may alter their overall GPA.  Please note that students cannot graduate if they have no GPA, so they cannot take all S/U graded courses.

**Recruiting Opportunity**
McNair Scholars are either first-generation college students with financial need, or members of a group that is traditionally underrepresented in graduate education and have demonstrated strong academic potential. The program is designed to prepare undergraduate students for doctoral studies through involvement in research and other scholarly activities. Annually, we receive access to the McNair Scholars national directory in order to communicate with prospective students. Should you be interested in setting up a recruitment communication in Slate, in order to target these scholars, please reach out to Lauren Liston, lpalerm@ncsu.edu.

**Graduate Assistantships - NextGen**
- NextGen Appointments for Spring 2021 beginning on January 1 can be entered or modified starting Monday, November 2nd.
- Make sure that all modifications and early separations on appointments ending on December 31 are **APPROVED** by the auto term date of **December 9th**.
- To avoid having to rush rehire actions after the fall appointment auto terms on December 9th, you can enter a modification to extend the end date of the current appointment. You can also modify other job details while extending the end date. If the salary distribution is also changing, this should be entered within Distribution Setup after the action is approved (distribution changes can not be made through modifications). Modifications to extend the date must be completed **BEFORE** December 9th's auto-term date.
- Any modifications not approved by the appointment's auto-term must be deleted and re-entered as a new grad appointment. Make sure to track HR and payroll dates to keep your hiring process moving along smoothly.

**Graduate Student Support Plan**
*GSSP exceptions*

All GSSP exceptions are closed for Fall 2020. Departments may submit exception requests for Spring 2021 in November.

***GSSP Indicators for Tuition Sponsorship***

Those students who received a Fall 2020 tuition award and are within eligible semesters for Spring 2021 should automatically have a GSSP tuition "do not cancel [enrollment]" service indicator for Spring 2021 added to their student accounts this month.  It is important that departments double check that appropriate students have the service indicator, and that it's removed from ineligible students prior to the start of the Spring 2021 semester. Departments have the ability to add these service indicators manually, and are encouraged to do so (see Manage Service Indicator Instructions). We are happy to assist where necessary, just send Dare Cook (decook@ncsu.edu) a list of those student IDs in an Excel spreadsheet (template linked) by **November 1st** and they will be uploaded to the system on the department's behalf. This will prevent departments from having to add them one-by-one in cases where there are many.

> GSSP Indicator Upload Request Form
> https://grad.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/gssp-indicator-request-form-2198.xlsx
>
> * Please remember that only graduate students that will be eligible for GSSP tuition support (within allowed semesters) should receive a GSSP tuition indicator.
>
> * If the student will be beyond their allowed semesters for GSSP tuition support and the advisor/department still plan to sponsor them (payment through a department initiated GA-1), the "DEPT" - department sponsorship (non-GSSP) indicator is appropriate.

**Online Professional Development Workshops**

The Graduate School Professional Development Team continues to offer support to graduate students and postdocs through virtual platforms. Our offerings include teaching and writing workshops, industry career preparation through our A2i program, and more. We will continue to add programming, so please share our workshops page with grad and postdoc trainees in your department. Contact Vanessa Doriott Anderson with questions.

**Virtual 3MT**

Our 6th annual 3-Minute-Thesis contest will be held virtually on December 2, 2020 at 12 p.m. via Zoom. Encourage your advisees and department colleagues to tune in for our 10 finalists and vote for their favorite with the "People's Choice" award! Check our information page for updates about the finalists and details about this Zoom event.