

Important Dates

January 18

- No registration required ETD review deadline

January 19

- First day of classes for Spring 2021

January 25

- Last day to add a course without permission of instructor

February 1

- Census Day
- Last day to drop a course without receiving a W grade
- Last day to enroll (register) or to add a course with instructor permission
- Last day to reduce hours for a tuition adjustment for Spring
- Last day to submit an academic load waiver for the Spring 2021 term
- GSSP eligibility deadline (5 p.m.)

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.*

Revised Grading & Late Drop Policies for Graduates

The [enhanced S/U grading option](#) will be available to students again in the spring term. The [enhanced withdrawal option](#) will also remain in effect in the spring term.

Enrollment Reminder

Please ask your students and their advisers to ensure that they are registered in the correct courses/sections and number of hours before census day, Feb. 1

Admissions Updates

If you have Spring 2021 applications that have no decision posted, you should either deny them, or contact graduate_applications@ncsu.edu to request that they be moved to a future term for consideration later. Otherwise, their applications will be archived after census day for the term.

Committee Reminder

Please note that any changes to a committee that occur after the preliminary exam require a committee modification form. We have received requests to alter committees after the final exam has been taken and these changes will not be approved. Any modifications must be approved prior to the final exam paperwork being issued.

Graduate Assistantships

****Important** NextGen Spring 2021 Actions**

- As a best practice, all appointments should be entered prior to the position start date.
- The first Spring semester pay day for January 1st hires is **January 22nd**.
- All January 1st hires should be approved before payroll lockout **on January 13th** in order for students to be paid in a timely manner.
- ALL Spring 2021 hires must be approved prior to Census **on February 1st to meet GSSP eligibility requirements. Appointments with start dates after Census do not qualify for GSSP benefits.**

Payroll Deduction for Student Fees - Spring 2021

The payroll deduction option for student fees will continue in Spring Semester 2021. However, students must re-enroll if they used the option in Fall and can do so by enrolling now via the Student Accounts tile within their *MyPack* portal. They'll have until **Friday, January 22, 2021** to sign up.

Please note that only qualifying graduate students with an active graduate assistantship will have access to this benefit. Students on a fellowship appointment do not have this option but can still enroll in the University's monthly payment plan to pay their education expenses including student fees. The link to the complete guide to the payroll deduction option for student fees is available on our [Graduate School Website](#). Please contact Richard Corley with questions.

Fellowships

All new Spring fellowships requests for January 21st disbursements must be received by the Graduate School <grad-fellowships@ncsu.edu> **no later than January 14th**.

GSSP

Spring 2021 GSSP Benefits: Graduate Support (system in MyPack Portal that manages the GSSP) will not create or apply any GSSP benefits (tuition or health insurance) to student accounts until [all GSSP eligibility requirements](#) are actively met in MyPack Portal. Once all GSSP eligibility requirements are met, Graduate Support should apply applicable benefits automatically. ***Please review your GSSP supported students to ensure that they are enrolled full time, are within allowed semesters, and have an active appointment for Spring 2021. Note that students who have an approved Reduced Course Load (RCL) for OIS will not meet the GSSP full time requirement and are not automatically GSSP eligible. If a GSSP supported student has an approved RCL and will not enroll full time and the department expects them to receive the GSSP benefit, an exception must be submitted for review by Dean Harries prior to Census.***

If students need to be reappointed for Spring 2021, please have these entered and approved in the system as early as possible. Also make use of the [Enrollment Quick Queries](#) above to ensure students are [enrolled full-time](#).

Professional Development Workshops Registration Open

This upcoming Spring Semester the Professional Development Team will offer virtual, synchronous workshops and workshop development series on a variety of teaching, writing, and career exploration topics. Encourage your advisees to sign up via our [workshops page](#).

Online Writing Groups

Graduate and postdoc trainees can make progress on their writing project and join a virtual writing group via Gradpack Slack workspace. Prospective group members [sign up here](#). Those interested in applying for a group leader position can [sign up here](#). All new team leaders and members will receive Slack space invites by late January. Questions? Contact [Katie Homar](#).

Ahead of the Pack

Beginning Jan. 29, the Ahead of the Pack development series supports first-year graduate students in their adjustment to graduate school. This series is focused on providing sustained support, practice, and feedback on key aspects of graduate school and sets students on a path for success. Weekly sessions will cover strategies for wellness, time management, communication, writing, and career management. Encourage your first-year graduate students to [register now](#) and take advantage of the support extended to them in the early stages of the academic journey!

Preparing the Professoriate Application Cycle

Postdocs and late-stage graduate students who are interested in pursuing a faculty career can learn more about the application process for Preparing the Professoriate (PTP) by attending one of our mandatory informational sessions, now open for registration. Visit our workshops page to [register](#) for an information session and the PTP page to [learn](#) more about the program. Application deadline is March 15. Contact [Vanessa Doriott Anderson](#) with questions.

Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Year in Review

Despite the challenges of this past year, the NC State Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (OPA) continued to find ways to support the postdoctoral community on campus. In addition, our exiting postdocs were successful in securing employment in a variety of fields despite a challenging job market. Explore and share OPA's [2020 Postdoc Year in Review](#) where your trainees can find more information and resources.