

From: [Dangier, Wendy](#)
To: [Directors of Graduate Studies](#)
Subject: Graduate College - DGS Digest 9/24/19
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 11:04:33 AM
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Graduate College

DGS Digest
September 24, 2019

Announcements

Directors of Graduate Studies,

It was good to see everyone at the first DGS meeting of the year! I wanted to thank you for your enthusiastic participation in the learning groups and send along a bit of information to follow up on our conversations.

Purpose: The learning groups are intended to provide you with the space to share your interest in graduate education and ideas for improvement with your peers and the Graduate College. This isn't a time intensive endeavor and our expectations are all based on you having the chance to learn from others and share your ideas. Your personal goals from the conversations might be any of the following:

- Personal learning about a topic that is new to you
- Peer feedback on a program idea or change you want to make
- Time to listen to what others are doing or share your own ideas

Outcomes: At the last meeting of the year (December), we will ask your group to share 2-3 topics of interest that your group came up with and two areas of interest that would be worthwhile to discuss going into spring. You will have the chance to stay in your same group or shift to a new one.

Communication: We will email each group short readings (3-5 minutes each) or online resources. There's no expectation that you find additional articles, but if you would like to share something with your group, that would be great. Feel free to communicate as a group regarding topics of interest, which will be the focus of the discussion for each group at the next DGS meeting.

Please also take special note of the information below regarding recent Theses and Dissertation Updates.

Best regards,

Steve

Steve Varga
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Student Development

Updates

Grad College Chosen to Participate in National Initiative

The University of Iowa Graduate College's participation in the [American Association of Universities \(AAU\) PhD Education Initiative](#) builds on its history of fostering diverse career outcomes for PhD students while investing energy and resources into data transparency and administrative assistance to ensure that new ideas are assessed, disseminated, and supported across campus. This new initiative offers the next critical step forward to achieving scalable and transformational change.

Theses and Dissertation Updates

Beginning fall 2019, the Graduate College has introduced electronic thesis and dissertation committee verification for all ProQuest submissions (i.e., everything but hard-copy MFAs).

Sign-Off Steps

Electronic verification will *follow* thesis or dissertation deposit and Graduate College examination.

E.g.,

1. Student submits draft of thesis to committee
2. Student defends thesis
3. Student completes revisions, if necessary, and finalizes thesis with committee
4. Student submits final version of thesis for deposit on or by December 9th at 5 p.m. central time (in fall 2019)
5. Graduate College performs format/publication review
6. **Committee members are notified to provide electronic verification of thesis or dissertation**

How to Sign-Off

Electronic committee verification will replace the hard copy signature page. **It will NOT replace the hard-copy Report of Final Exam** (see attached page 13). Committee members will receive an email notification for the sign-off request (see attached page 14). The email will come from etdadministrator@proquest.com.

Who is Notified

In the rare occasion that a manuscript is rejected by a committee member at the point of verification, only the student and the Graduate College are notified; however, as we are a pilot institution, we have expressed to ProQuest developers that notifying the committee chair is an enhancement they may wish to consider. Additionally, the Graduate College will send a separate email (not generated automatically) to the committee chair to ensure that they are apprised.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Events

Work Visa Options After Graduation

Friday, September 27, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm, IMU Room 335 – Experienced immigration attorneys will discuss work visa options for international students after graduation, including Optional Practical Training (OPT) and H-1B. They will offer practical advice on job search strategies and how to deal with the H-1B quota, as well as options other than H-1B for those who qualify. See the attached flyer for more information.

Photo Booth

Wednesday, October 2, 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm, 423 Gilmore Hall – All graduate students and postdocs are invited to sign up to have their pictures taken during a Graduate College Photo Booth session. Graduate students and postdocs can use this picture on their LinkedIn profile, their departmental web page, and other places they need a professional presence. Plus, it takes less than 5 minutes. The Photo Booth is FREE to all graduate students and postdocs in programs served by the Graduate College. The next photo booth will be October 2 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. in 423 Gilmore Hall. Students can sign up for a time slot [here](#).

Managing the Market

Thursday, October 3, 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm – The Graduate College is hosting webinars for graduate students applying to academic jobs. The next webinar is on **October 3rd** and will focus on formatting a research statement and strategies for effectively creating a research trajectory for the committee. Register [here](#) and see the attached flyer for more details.

Three Minute Thesis

Registration Deadline Monday, October 7 – The ability to clearly and concisely articulate complex research to non-specialist audiences is a vital skill for all graduate students. Participating in the Graduate College's research competitions can help students develop and hone communication skills, provides a platform to show off their work, and offers the chance to compete for cash prizes. See the attached flyer for details.

- **Interdisciplinary Competition**

The University of Iowa's fifth Interdisciplinary Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition challenges graduate students to clearly and concisely articulate complex research to non-specialist audiences. More information and registration can be found [here](#). Registration deadline is **October 7th**.

- **Host a Departmental 3MT**

New this year, if your department hosts a 3MT competition your winner can by-pass the interdisciplinary preliminary competition to participate in the final competition. You can find more details, resources, and information on hosting a departmental 3MT on the [Hosting a Departmental 3MT](#) section of our website.

Research Services Fair

Thursday, October 10, 1:00 pm – 6:30 pm, Hancher – The second annual Research Services Fair, which starts at 1 p.m. Thursday, October 10 at Hancher, will bring under one roof information about the many instruments, centers, institutes, and service units that support the work of University of Iowa researchers and scholars. The event features more than 60 resources, networking opportunities, hors d'oeuvres and beverages, and 35 round table discussions—including some that may be of particular interest to graduate students, “Women as a minority in engineering majors and how the WISE program provides support” from 2-3 p.m. and “Resources and Support for Student Researchers (that also assist their Faculty Advisors) Human Subjects Office/Institutional Review Board” from 4-5 p.m. Registration can be found [here](#).

Write Winning Grant Proposals

Friday, October 25, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Hilton Garden Inn, Iowa City – The Office of the Vice President for Research is hosting a grant writing seminar titled “Write Winning Grant Proposals” on October 25. This all-day presentation will address both practical and conceptual aspects that are important to writing competitive grant proposals. The deadline to register is **Friday, October 4**. See details [here](#).

Commencement for Summer & Fall Degree Applicants

Registration Deadline Wednesday, November 20 – Summer and fall degree applicants are eligible to participate in the Fall commencement ceremony provided they register by the deadline of **November 20, 2019**. Registration is open for Fall Commencement and is available on the [new commencement webpage](#). The ceremony will be held immediately before the University Holidays in Hancher Auditorium on **Friday, December 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm**.

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

2019-2020 Graduate College Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award

Nominations due Monday, October 21 – This award recognizes exemplary mentoring of doctoral students by members of the UI graduate faculty. Each eligible department may nominate one mentor; nominations must come from a faculty member in that department. A nomination letter is all that is required *initially* for a nomination. Information about the award, award criteria, and the application process are available [here](#). Past [recipients](#) are listed on our webpage. This year's eligible departments are in the Biological and Life Sciences and Humanities and Fine Arts. Deadline for the initial departmental letter of nomination is **Monday, October 21, 2019**.

Recipients of the award will be recognized at the 2020 spring semester joint graduate faculty/directors of graduate studies meeting. The meeting/award ceremony is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 3:30 p.m., Senate Chamber, Old Capitol**. A reception will follow the presentation of awards in the Old Capitol rotunda. Please contact Kathy Klein Gerling (kathy-klein@uiowa.edu, 335-3492) if you have any questions.

Graduate College Funding Resources

The Graduate College provides a wide variety of financial assistance to help masters and doctoral students meet educational, living, and professional development expenses. We provide close to 20 different [internal fellowship opportunities](#) and staff support for students seeking external grants and fellowships. The Graduate College also partners with the Graduate Student Employment Committee, which provides recommendations to University leadership on matters related to employment benefits. The current graduate employment agreement contains information on graduate assistant rights and benefits. If you have any questions, please contact us at [grad-fellowships@uiowa.edu](#) or call Associate Dean Shelly Campo (335-2136) or Executive Director of Operations Donna Welter (335-2145).

Resources

Resources for Student Parents

Some students at Iowa are also parents, and UI Family Services can help them by providing support related to child care, lactation rooms, and other needs. Please review and share the [programs](#) provided by UI Family Services to help student parents succeed. Contact familyservices@uiowa.edu or visit the [University Human Resources site](#).

Graduate Student Development

This fall, Jennifer Teitle, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Professional Development, is offering consultations with faculty members to discuss graduate student development opportunities including:

- Preparing PhD students for multiple career pathways
- LinkedIn for Academics, including helping graduate students stay connected and building a department LinkedIn
- Integrating professional development into departmental curriculum
- Grant opportunities for advancing graduate student professional development.

Appointments with Jen can be made directly through this [link](#) or on the [UI Grad Success page](#).

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