GRADUATE ADVISOR MEETING

Updates and Reminders

March 16, 2021

We will begin shortly
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES

Tashemia V. Jones, Ed.D.
Assistant Director, Academic Affairs
Deadline to apply is March 23rd
https://www.uh.edu/graduate-school/academics/thesis/dissertation_accelerator/
REMINDERS & UPDATES

• Please check on your students’ status
• Check the status of LOA’s and medical leaves every semester
• Ensure students are enrolling on time in the correct courses
• Late enrollment should be as minimal to none
• Apply to graduate on time
• Please check with the ISSSO office for late registration for international students
  • Please check the status of your international students, ensure they are enrolled in the required courses
Shawn Washington
Associate Director,
Graduate and International Admissions
ARCHIVING SP2021 APPS

• February (Archiving Spring 2021) Admissions Applications

If no decisions updated CN

Applications will change automatically to ”Withdrawal Status” and withdrawal letters released to applicants.
BEST PRACTICES: DECISION LETTERS

If an applicant cannot see a decision letter, be sure to verify the release date; if it’s future dated, then the applicant will not be able to see it until that date.

Click “Assign.”
As with entering decisions, reconfirm that the college/program decision fields in CN are updated with the same response.
DECISION “OFFER” LETTER

• Remember that decision/Offer “letters” are released from CollegeNet through the applicant’s ApplyWeb account.

• There’s no direct email going out to Applicants.

• Applicants will need to log back into their ApplyWeb accounts to view their offer letters.
SPECIAL ADMIT REQUEST REMINDERS:

Graduate School Petition:

https://uh.edu/graduate-school/forms/gpwp-updated-petition-102020.pdf

Approval Signatures

Supporting Documents

Why is this applicant special?
GENERAL REMINDERS

• Deactivating CN Access: On-going review of Faculty and Campus Staff Members.

• Annual Changes to Admissions Applications.
Bina Benavides, M.P.A.
Program Manager, Recruiting
UH GRADUATE SCHOOL VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS SUMMARY SPRING 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Sessions</th>
<th>RSVPs</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
<th>Percentage Attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan-21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-21</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1102</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fairs/Outside Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 9 2021</td>
<td>Texas State University Virtual Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 25 2021</td>
<td>Lonestar Tomball Virtual Career Fair</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Interested in partnering to do a virtual information sessions and/or outside events contact Bina Benavides at bbenavi2@central.uh.edu.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS General Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS General Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS CLASS Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS General Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS STEM Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS General Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS STEM Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-Mar-21</td>
<td>UHGS CLASS Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-Apr-21</td>
<td>UHGS General Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Apr-21</td>
<td>UHGS General Information Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-Apr-21</td>
<td>UHGS Hobby School of Public Affairs Info. Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-Apr-21</td>
<td>UHGS CLASS Master of Public Administration Information Session</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I-20 processing

Christen Powers
SEVIS Compliance Coordinator
• Deferment processing has been completed
• Students that do not yet have their I-20, please contact gradschool@uh.edu
SUMMER ARRIVALS

• Students arriving in Summer are required to:
  • Arrive by June 7, 2021, which is the first day of classes for Summer.
  • Enroll full time for Summer Session 1
  • Enroll in one face to face course
LATE ARRIVALS

• Late arrivals require a Graduate Admissions petition with all approvals.
• Students requesting late arrival must be able to arrive before ORD.
• Any student arriving to study in the United States must enroll and be successful in academic courses in order to maintain status.
• Any questions regarding late arrival can be sent to graduateschool@uh.edu
SPRING 2021 REPORTING UPDATES

1. All F-1 students requiring a F2F/Hybrid course have one and reporting for this semester is complete.

2. COVID-19 has made reporting quite different for our office. We will continue to work through any issues that may arise. Be extra diligent regarding communication with students who began studying at UH pre- and post-March 9th, 2020. Keep Grad Admissions/ISSSO involved and double check if you are not sure something is or isn’t allowed.
SUMMER I-20 START DATES

- Summer I-20 program start means 6hrs of enrollment. One class has to be F2F/Hybrid.
  - This rule would be enforced no matter if under COVID-19 pandemic SEVP guidance or UH returns to normal operations.
  - Summer session 1 course required for the F2F/Hybrid class.
CPT/OPT AND SEVP GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19

• SEVP Q&A Guidance states:
• Does time spent studying outside of the United States during the COVID-19 emergency count toward the one-year requirement for CPT and OPT? An F student accrues eligibility for practical training whether they are inside or outside of the United States during the COVID-19 emergency if the student is in active status in SEVIS and meets the requirements of their school’s procedural change plans submitted to SEVP.

• A student becomes active in SEVIS when they enter the U.S. and are registered for classes after having checked in with our office (ISSSO).
• Summer cannot count as one semester. It has to be fall and spring semesters completed in Active SEVIS status.
• How will your department plan to handle master’s students with only one semester left of study and who are not in active status yet due to studying abroad?
Chastyne Blacklock

Events Coordinator &
Executive Assistant to
Vice Provost and Dean,
Graduate School
UPCOMING EVENT:

Graduate Research Showcase – 2021 Virtual Poster Session
The top 10 graduate student winners will be eligible to receive a $250 scholarship award

- Open to all graduate and professional students
- Registration closed March 10th
- 62 students registered to participate
- Currently we are compiling posters for UH Branding to approve
- Judging will begin next week
Dr. Sarah Larsen
Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School
2020 Graduate Student Experience Survey

Dr. Sarah Larsen, Dean of the Graduate School & Prof. Christiane Spitzmueller, Department of Psychology
Survey-based tool with validated measures

- Developed with Department of Psychology, CAPS and GPSA input
- Confidential student responses from \( N=1118 \) graduate and professional students
- Survey opened December, 2020
PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

- 26% Hispanic/Latino
- 60% female
- 35% first generation college
- Average age: 28.8 yrs

77% Domestic
23% International
**COVID-19- PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Experience reported by students</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not experience symptoms and did not get tested for COVID-19</td>
<td>70.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tested positive for COVID-19</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experienced COVID-19 symptoms but tested negative</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience COVID-19 symptoms but were unable to get tested</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8% reported by Latino students.
### COVID-19 - IMPACT ON OTHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>% agree*</th>
<th>% agree Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Someone I am close to has been hospitalized with COVID-19 symptoms.</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone I am close to has died from COVID-19 complications.</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A coworker/supervisor/peer of mine has experienced a COVID-19 infection.</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latino students report relatively higher impact.

* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree
## COVID-19 – FINANCIAL/CAREER CONCERNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>% agree*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am worried about the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on my ability to obtain funding for my graduate education (e.g. grants, teaching/research assistantships).</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job opportunities in my field have become more scarce due to COVID-19.</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am worried about finding a job once I graduate.</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

International students reported the highest agreement with these items relative to other groups.

* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree
## COVID-19 – FINANCIAL/CAREER CONCERNS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% agree*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For me, the cost of attending graduate school has increased during the pandemic.</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My ability to pay for my graduate education has been compromised by factors related to the pandemic.</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have to care for others who depend on me and have less time for my studies.</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree
# COVID-19 – RESEARCH PROGRESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>% agree*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My research progress is hindered by factors related to COVID-19.</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I expect to have to extend my time in graduate school due to COVID-19.</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

56% doctoral

* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree
Uncertainties are killing me.

Balancing work, home life, current events, and graduate work has been especially difficult this year.

The biggest factor affecting my work is loneliness. I miss being in an office and bouncing ideas off of colleagues.

Everyone around me is hurting and as a TA I felt the brunt of this from both the students I teach and the instructor I assist. :(Very hard semester for me!!!
...it can be difficult to discuss with professors, and some seem unaware of the barriers....we just hope the professor would consider diverse factors of what student's are contending with during the pandemic.....
Graduate students have been highly impacted by Covid-19

- 5% have tested positive
- 15% have someone close to them who has died due to COVID-19
- More than half of the students are worried about job opportunities and funding for their graduate education
- Approximately ~30% expect that they will need to extend their time in graduate school due to the pandemic.
Short term
• Increased flexibility for students
  – Interim graduate grading policy
  – Deadlines extended (thesis, withdrawal)
  – Flexibility around limits on funding/GTF (considered on case-by-case basis)

Middle/Longer Term Initiatives
• Continue work on mentoring, financial support, mental health
• Career exploration/planning resources for graduate students with University Career Services
March 30th
11-12pm
Additional information next week