

K-State Graduate School

Weekly Newsletter

September 1, 2020 [Events and Deadlines](#)

This newsletter is distributed to department heads, graduate program directors, graduate program contact staff, and graduate faculty.

Important Information for All Graduate Faculty, Graduate School and Graduate Program Administration

Beginning fall semester (August 17th), the Graduate School is transitioning to all online submission of electronic forms/documents. The links to all Graduate School electronic forms, including programs of study, program/committee change forms, approval to schedule final examination forms, and request for preliminary ballots, are available on the Graduate School website. After an electronic form is submitted, email notifications will be sent to the major professor, committee members and program director who must review and approve the document/form. The goal is to facilitate the movement of the document/form through the approval process. After the document/form is received by the Graduate School, the approval process remains the same.

There have been recent updates to the Graduate School's electronic forms to include a departmental advisor/coordinator in the approval workflow if appropriate. Departments that have a program advisor/coordinator who reviews student forms before the committee, should instruct their students to include the advisor/coordinator when submitting electronic forms via the Graduate School website. We plan to release a new look-up tool early in the fall semester to allow faculty and support staff to look up the status of student forms on the form dashboard where Graduate School electronic forms are accessed and submitted. Departmental support staff will continue to have access to submit electronic forms as a proxy for students if necessary.

Beginning September 10th, ballots (preliminary, final and ETDR) will be distributed electronically to the major professor or outside chair using the RightSignature tool. The Graduate School will send out information on the electronic ballot and RightSignature in the next newsletter. Committee members and if applicable, the outside chair will sign ballots after receiving an e-mail with a link to the ballot and the ballot will be returned electronically to the Graduate School after all required signatures have been recorded. This new process should expedite the distribution and submission of ballots as students continue to defend using zoom or other teleconferencing systems.

Beginning fall semester, students will have the option of conducting their defenses on campus using social distancing and masks guidelines. However, if the student or any member the supervisory committee wishes to participate via zoom this

request is to be honored. The approval form should include not only the location of the defense if held face-to-face on campus, but also the zoom meeting link. This is imperative for doctoral defenses as they are to be publicly available.

Save the Date: Graduate School Fall Update Meeting, September 16th

All department heads, graduate program directors, and graduate program contact staff are encouraged to attend the Fall 2020 update meeting with the Graduate School administration team on **September 16th 3:00 – 5:00 pm**. Join [via Zoom](#).

Graduate Program Directors

Call for Graduate Student Teaching Award Nominations

Departments are encouraged to nominate outstanding graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) for the [GSC/MAGS Award for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence](#). Each department may nominate one masters and one doctoral GTA for the teaching award. Department nominations are due to College Deans offices by September 30.

Graduate Faculty

[New Rural/Regional U.S. Scholar Award through the Australian-American Fulbright Commission](#)

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission is pleased to announce a new U.S. Scholar award focusing on rural and regional issues that would be of particular interest to Kansas State University. **Applications are open until September 15, 2020**. For more information, [visit the Fulbright Scholar Award website](#).

Volunteer to be a Poster Judge for Research and the State

The Graduate Student Council is calling for faculty and post-doc judge volunteers for the annual [Research and the State](#) graduate student poster session. The poster session will be held in a virtual format via Zoom on October 23, 2020. Presentation sessions will be held throughout the day between 9:00am-5:00pm. The time commitment for judges will be 1-2.5 hours. If interested in serving as a judge, please complete a brief [online form](#) to express your interest and provide your availability on October 23.

Graduate Students

Funds to support student technology needs

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) in collaboration with K-State's advising and student life community offers assistance to students who face financial barriers to the acquisition of needed hardware/software essential to on-line course participation. The student must be eligible for federal financial assistance. In most instances this eligibility criterion will be met if the student has filed a FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year. The technology assistance referral form may be submitted by any member of the university's academic or student life advising communities familiar with the student's distance learning access challenges. Upon receipt of the completed form, the OSFA will review any additional information available on to the student's academic and financial circumstances. Where possible, the OSFA will issue to the student a voucher for the purchase of technological hardware/software at the K-State Campus Bookstore. The referring K-State official will be copied on the e-mail communication sent to the student's K-State e-mail address.

Graduate Student Council Travel Awards

September 1 is the deadline for graduate students to apply for GSC travel awards to attend academic and professional events that begin anytime in November.

Students may apply for a GSC travel award for an event that is currently planned to be held in person. However, per the [announcement made on March 14](#), all university-affiliated or sponsored travel is banned until further notice, and students should not make travel arrangements until the ban is lifted. At this time, GSC travel awards may be used to reimburse registration fees associated with conferences held in a virtual format.

TLC Professional Development – PowerPoint can do that?! Free and Familiar Tools to Wow Your Online Class

September 2, noon-1:00pm

Graduate teaching assistants and other graduate students with a professional interest in teaching are encouraged to participate in the Teaching and Learning Center's [professional development seminar series](#). This session will be presented by Dr. Michael Wesch. View a [promotional video](#) for the session and join by Zoom (<https://ksu.zoom.us/j/93106034653>).

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Information Session

The National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based Master's and doctor

degree. This session will take an in-depth look at the requirements for an NSF GFRP submission. A panel of faculty members who have served on review panels for this program will discuss tips and provide advice that you will not find in this program's Request for Proposals. Students will also have an opportunity to talk about their research ideas with the panel. If you are serious about submitting to this program, this is a session you should not miss.

3:30-5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 8

[Please register for this event.](#)

After you register, a Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the event.

TLC Professional Development Teaching Chat

September 9, noon-1:00pm

Teaching Chats (CHATs) are open forums wherein faculty, staff, and graduate students are invited to voice concerns about what they are currently experiencing in their classes. These sessions are intended to be broad, discussion-based sessions during which the K-State community can crowdsource potential solutions. Join by Zoom (<https://ksu.zoom.us/j/93106034653>).

[Beyond the Professoriate webinar – Job Searching During the COVID-19 Recession](#)

September 10, 11:00am

In this free webinar, attendees will hear from two PhDs who have been actively job searching during the past four months.

[The Library and Your Research – Starting Your Literature Review in Social Sciences and Education](#)

September 14, 1:30-2:30pm

Are you preparing a literature review for a paper, article, thesis, or dissertation? This workshop will help you! Learn why a literature review is important, how to use K-State Libraries' databases to select articles, how to evaluate the articles, and how to organize the review. For this session, article searching will be demonstrated using social sciences and education databases, however, the concepts will be applicable to all disciplines.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Humanities, Arts, Sciences, and Professional Fields

The Michigan Society of Fellows provides financial and intellectual support for individuals holding advanced degrees in their fields, who are selected for their outstanding achievement, professional promise, and interdisciplinary interests. Applicants for these fellowships must have received the Ph.D. degree or comparable artistic or professional degree between June 1, 2018, and September 1, 2021. Fellows are appointed as Assistant Professors in appropriate departments and as Postdoctoral Scholars in the Michigan Society of Fellows. They are expected to be in residence in Ann Arbor during the academic years of the fellowship, to teach for the equivalent of one academic year, to participate in the informal intellectual life of the Society, and to devote time to their independent research or artistic projects. This is not an artist-in-residence program but rather an opportunity to develop one's work in conversation with fellows from a range of disciplines during the three years of the fellowship. The Society seeks a diverse and international pool of applicants and especially welcome candidates from underrepresented backgrounds. Final selections will be made in late January 2021. The annual stipend will be \$60,000. **The [online application](#) must be submitted by September 15, 2020.**

[GSC Professional Development – Navigating the Career Decision Making Process](#)

September 17, 2:30-4:00pm

Graduate students and post-docs are invited to participate in the first virtual GSC professional development seminar of the fall semester. Hosted by [BioKansas](#), participants of this webinar will identify and discuss professional strengths, interests, and weaknesses; explore how their personal values and life experiences share their goals and contribute to career satisfaction; and design and evaluate an action plan to better position themselves for successful career decisions. While the content of this session will be especially relevant to those considering career options in the biosciences, graduate students and postdocs from any discipline are welcome to participate and are expected to benefit. **Advance [registration](#) is required by September 15th at 4:00pm.**

Academic Career Conference

The Graduate School will sponsor a limited number of graduate students to participate in Beyond the Professoriate's Academic Career Success Conference. Graduate students may register to participate in one of the following conference sessions:

- September 19 – 10am-3pm CST – Academic Career Success for STEM graduate students, post-docs, and PhDs
- September 26 – 10am-3pm CST – Academic Career Success for Humanities and Social Science Graduate Students and PhDs

Each day of the conference will consist of four webinars. Topics covered in the webinars include: advancing research under COVID-19 restrictions; navigating the publication process; time management for work, life, and career; and applying for post-docs, grants, and fellowships. To have registration paid for by the Graduate School, graduate students must [register here](#) (do not register through the Beyond the Professoriate conference website).

Call for abstracts: Research and the State

Registration is open for the Graduate Student Council's Research and the State graduate student poster session, which will be held October 23rd via Zoom. Graduate students from all disciplines are invited to participate. Ten presenters will be selected to represent K-State at the annual Capitol Graduate Research Summit (CGRS) held in the spring at the Capitol Building, where graduate students present their posters and discuss the implications their work has on issues in the state of Kansas. Additionally, Research and the State is a great opportunity for graduate students to share their research or scholarly work with the campus community. **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 25, 2020, 11:59 pm CST**

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