

K-State Graduate School

Weekly Newsletter

Week of September 12-16, 2016 **Events and Deadlines**

This weekly newsletter is sent out to dept. heads, graduate program directors and contact staff, and graduate faculty. Graduate students receive an email from the GSC on Mondays.

Graduate Faculty

Volunteer to be a Poster Judge at Research and the State!

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) invites K-State faculty members and post-docs to serve as judges at Research and the State on the afternoon of November 2. Please complete a brief online form to indicate your interest in serving as a judge and to provide your availability. Volunteers must be available at 12:45pm for least one hour, but ideally up to two and half hours. [Register to volunteer here](#)

Graduate Student Council wants to hear about students' accomplishments

The Graduate Student Council Awards and Recognition Committee would like to recognize all graduate students who have had notable scholarly achievements from Spring 2016 semester to Fall 2016 semester (March 15, 2016 - October 15, 2016), such as awards at conferences, research forums, teaching awards, etc., or who have made exceptional contributions to the research knowledge-base or other scholarly contributions to their discipline. Faculty or department contacts are encouraged to submit the accomplishments by October 24. To submit accomplishments visit [this website](#).

Graduate School Alumni Newsletter

Stay up to date with graduate alumni and current students by reading stories about the Graduate School's Innovation and Inspiration progress, a graduate student's travel experience to Lithuania and new graduate programs available for working professionals.

Graduate Program Directors and Contact Staff

Department recommendations due for international applications

September 1 was the deadline for recommendations to be made for Spring 2017 *out of country international applications*. Please make your recommendations as soon as possible - we want to ensure that all international students that are recommended are reviewed and admitted in a timely manner and can send their visa as soon as possible. Please be sure that all international applications are complete with necessary items by reviewing [this checklist](#).

[Call for graduate student teaching and thesis award nominations](#)

Departments are encouraged to nominate outstanding graduate teaching assistants for the [GSC/MAGS Award for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence](#). Each department may nominate one GTA for the teaching award. Nominations are due to College Deans by noon on September 23. Additionally, graduate programs are invited to nominate master's students in social science and engineering/math/physical science fields for the [MAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Thesis Award](#). Each graduate program may nominate one master's student for the thesis award. Nominations are due to the Graduate School by noon on September 23. Also be sure to check-out other [graduate student award opportunities](#) available throughout the year.

Graduate Student Opportunities

Update on Graduate Student Health Insurance

The Kansas Board of Regents currently offers health insurance coverage to graduate students in a 0.5 fte position or greater. Graduate students in these positions are eligible to enroll in the Student Health Insurance Plan and pay 25% of the premium for single coverage. K-State (and the other KBOR Universities) pay 75% of the premium for single coverage.

IRS Notice 2016-17, confirmed these insurance premium contributions are premium reductions and fail to satisfy the Affordable Care Act because employer payments to individual plans are not permissible. The IRS has issued transition relief for "premium reduction arrangements" such as the above scenario for all plans that start before January 1, 2017. The Kansas Board of Regents student health insurance plan runs from August 1, 2016 through July 31, 2017, therefore any changes to graduate student health insurance will not be in effect until the next plan year starting August 1, 2017.

The Kansas Board of Regents is currently identifying ways to address the IRS regulation and continue to address Graduate Student employee needs. The K-State administration and KBOR will be communicating in Fall of 2016 what changes will be made for next year.

[Call for Graduate Student Abstracts: Research and the State](#)

Registration is now open for the 2016 Research and the State graduate student poster session. Graduate students from ALL disciplines are invited to submit an abstract for a poster presentation on their research or scholarly work. Abstracts and presentations must be prepared for a general audience, and students must discuss the implications of their work and why it is valuable in the state of Kansas.

[NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Information Session](#)

On September 15 at 3 p.m. in the Alumni Center's Purple Pride room, the Graduate School, the Office of Nationally Competitive Scholarships, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs are hosting a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) information session. The NSF GRFP seeks outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing a research-based Master's or doctorate degree. [Registration is required](#)

[ETDR and Word walk-in clinic 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13](#)

Graduate students can receive quick assistance on using a Microsoft Word writing template for theses, dissertations, and reports. Drop by the weekly ETDR clinic 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. every Tuesday through Nov. 8, in 301A Hale Library.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Graduate School
103 Fairchild Hall

785-532-6191
grad@k-state.edu
k-state.edu/grad