

COVID-19 guidance for graduate students and postdocs

With the recent changes in University operations due to COVID-19, we want to provide a concise source of information and guidance focused on the needs of graduate students and postdoctoral trainees. Consulting the University's [Coronavirus website](#) is the best way to stay updated on this rapidly evolving situation. There are many questions yet to address, but I want to share what we know at this point related to graduate education and research.

Instruction

Graduate students enrolled in coursework should follow the guidance being given to all UD students, and expect that classes will be delivered online starting March 23. Your instructors will provide further guidance about specific plans for their courses.

Research

Graduate students and postdocs conducting research should contact their faculty advisor or PI for guidance. Since the UD campuses remain open, most research will continue. However, any work that requires travel or large gatherings of people should be reconsidered in light of other University recommendations. Please be sure to reference the section on Travel below. Graduate students whose research can be conducted remotely should consult with their faculty advisor or PI to determine whether remote work is appropriate during this time. The University has posted additional information about research on the [Research Office website](#).

Graduate employment

Currently, UD campuses remain open and your employment continues. Due to the range of different work they do, Research Assistants, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants may each be affected differently. We encourage individuals to begin by asking their supervisor about how to continue carrying out their work responsibilities. For TAs this may mean supporting development of remote instruction options, using Canvas, Zoom, or other methods of online instruction and communication. You can learn more about these tools at the Faculty Commons [Course Continuity](#) website. RAs and GAs may continue to report to work on campus unless told to do otherwise. In some cases, TAs, RAs, or GAs may be encouraged to work from home.

Theses and Dissertations

You do not need to be on campus to submit a thesis or dissertation, though signature pages will need to be delivered to the Graduate College before the degree is granted. Electronic signatures will be accepted on the signature pages and defense form. Please contact Mary Martin (mmartin@udel.edu) for additional details.

Travel

University-sponsored travel to all international locations is prohibited through the end of the spring semester. Please review the Travel FAQ for the latest information on other restrictions. Members of our community are reminded to register all travel plans with the University's Office of Risk Management on [this form](#). Graduate students who received funding through a Graduate College Travel Award for meetings that have been cancelled, or who need to change plans, should contact [Carol Steinbrecher](#). It is our intention that students not have to bear the cost of any changes.

Financial hardship

Although the University is committed to continuity of pay for graduate students on contract, we recognize that other factors related to COVID-19 may have an impact on finances. Emergency loans (up to \$1000) are available from the Graduate College for students on contract; please contact [Mary Martin](#) to apply. The Financial Aid Office also has an emergency loan program (up to \$500); the contact for these loans is [Joseph Bradley](#).

Housing

All UD owned and/or operated student housing facilities will be closed through the end of the semester. While few graduate students live in UD housing, all students living in on-campus housing must complete this form [immediately](#). If you cannot return home because of international travel restrictions or serious personal reasons, we will work with you to make special on-campus housing arrangements; you must complete the form.

If you develop symptoms

Anyone who is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) should self-quarantine and call their healthcare provider.

Students on campus who feel sick are asked to call Student Health Services at 302-831-2226 to discuss their symptoms before visiting in person so that they can be routed most efficiently to appropriate care.

The Delaware Division of Public Health interviews each individual who tests positive for COVID-19 to determine those people with whom they have had close contact. If you are considered to be at risk because you were in close contact with one of those individuals who tested positive, the Division of Public Health will contact you. You can also reach out to them proactively if you know that you have had contact with one of those individuals.

Communication

Please check your email regularly for continued updates as more information becomes available. The latest information will always be available at the University's [Coronavirus web site](#).