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New Events & Announcements

Upcoming Events

New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO)

The New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO) Canvas course is now available. The NGSO is not required but is encouraged for students new to graduate studies or new to UK. Newly admitted students should receive an invitation to the NGSO this week or next, depending on when their admission is finalized. For trouble accessing Canvas, please reach out to Information Technology Services (ITS) for assistance.

Beyond the Professoriate Webinar: "What Can I Do With My PhD?" (08/09)

Click Here to Register
PhDs can and do find fulfilling work in a wide array of careers, both inside and outside the academy. But how do YOU figure out which career path is right for you? Join Beyond the Professoriate to learn how to construct your Optimal Career Pathway, a metric that will let you determine which kinds of jobs will provide you with meaningful, intellectually challenging work.

Join us on August 9th at 12 p.m. ET where you will learn how to use the PhD Career Training Platform as part of your job search.

After attending this presentation, you’ll be able to:
- Which career path is right for me: academic or non-academic?
- What non-academic careers could ever offer me the same flexibility and intellectual challenge as an academic career?
- How do I search for non-academic jobs if I’ve been in academia for a while now?
- What resources does Beyond the Prof’s training platform have that can help me?

This event is LIVE ONLY.

This webinar is sponsored by the Global Higher Education division of ETS.

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**Fall 2023 Graduate and Postdoctoral Professional Development Courses**

Want to learn more about the PFF/Graduate School course offerings, as well as the Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning? Attend a virtual 45-minute overview with Q&A on Tuesday, August 15, at 11:30 a.m. **Click here to register.** We look forward to seeing you in Zoom. You can send any questions in advance to Dr. Morris Grubbs.

In partnership with CELT and Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation (EPE), the Office of Graduate Student Professional Enhancement (GSPE) offers the following professional development courses for fall 2023. Courses may be taken as individual stand-alones or as a set leading to a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning. You may register for these courses as you do for your degree courses. **Click here** for a brochure of The Graduate School’s Preparing Future Faculty/Professionals Program. Full information about the 12-credit hour Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning is here. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Morris Grubbs (morris.grubbs@uky.edu), Dr. Jeffery Bieber (jpbieb01@uky.edu) or any of the instructors teaching the courses below.

**GS 610: College Teaching Seminar**
Sec. 401; 1 credit hour. Thursday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. *(Jacobs Science Building Rm. 139)*
**Instructor:** Dr. David Sacks

Addresses a wide range of teaching and learning issues in the college classroom. Examines pedagogical issues in a general format with opportunity for discipline-specific applications. This course can serve to augment any department-based pedagogy programs. Intended primarily for graduate students preparing for future academic careers and seeking to enhance current teaching activities. No prerequisite other than graduate student standing. Also open to Postdocs.

**GS 620: Teaching in the 21st Century: Universal Design for Learning**
Section 001; 1 credit hour. Tuesday, 4:00-5:00 p.m. *(King Library Rm. 502)*
**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Pusateri

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is an evidence-based educational framework that seeks to address learner variability by removing barriers during the planning process. This course prepares graduate students to use design thinking to plan courses and activities that create an inclusive classroom environment. The course is framed within an inclusion-based, pedagogical lens and is designed to meet the needs of interdisciplinary graduate students. No prerequisite other than graduate student standing. Also open to Postdocs.
GS 640: Grant Writing  
Sec. 001; 3 credit hours. Wednesday, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. (Patterson Office Tower Rm. 145)  
Instructor: Dr. Francisco Andrade

Prepares graduate students to identify competitive grants large and small and to craft clear and compelling grant applications. Content and skills developed in the course are useful to students across the disciplines. No prerequisite other than graduate student standing. Also open to Postdocs.

GS 650: Preparing Future Faculty  
Sec. 401; 2 credit hours. Monday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Business & Economics Building Rm. 131)  
Instructor: Dr. Morris Grubbs

An introduction to the roles and responsibilities of faculty across the types of institutions (research universities, comprehensive master’s universities, liberal arts and sciences colleges and universities, and community colleges). Through class discussions with visiting faculty and administrators, students learn the characteristics of the institutional types and the expectations of faculty across research, teaching, and service. Applying effectively to positions and achieving early and lasting success in faculty appointments will be addressed. No prerequisite other than graduate student standing. Also open to Postdocs.

Ubuntu Multicultural Graduate Student Orientation (08/31)
NEW Graduate Student Congress (GSC) Website
Call for Participants: Communication and Belonging of First-Year Graduate Students
COMMUNICATION AND BELONGING OF FIRST-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS

A graduate student researcher at the University of Kentucky is interested in understanding the impact of different communication messages on sense of belonging among first-year graduate students during their first semester in graduate school at UK. This study is related to the graduate student's dissertation and involves a series of three (3) online surveys sent a few weeks apart and lasting twenty (20) minutes each.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU ARE:
- at least 18 years of age,
- enrolled in at least one graduate-level course (3-credit hours) for the first time (i.e., you are a new first-year graduate student) in a graduate degree program or department at the University of Kentucky, and
- funded through a Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA), Graduate Assistantship (GA), Research Assistantship (RA), or otherwise employed by the university (e.g., student worker, federal work study, staff, faculty, etc.).

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE OFFERED:
- No direct personal benefit from taking part in this research study, but some volunteers experience satisfaction from knowing they have contributed to research that may possibly benefit others in the future.
- Satisfaction from helping a fellow graduate student complete their dissertation research, a situation in which participants may find themselves just a few years from now.
- A short summary report of the dissertation project once it is finished, including a "lessons learned" section for those who are or will be navigating the IRB approval and data collection processes. Please email the Principal Investigator (PI) after the conclusion of the study if you are interested in receiving this report.

Contact Information:
Amanda Slone, Principal Investigator (PI)
Dr. Bobi Ivanov, Faculty Advisor
Graduate Program in Communication
College of Communication & Information
amanda.slone@uky.edu

Watch your inbox for an email titled "Invitation to Participate in First-Year Graduate Student Survey" to be delivered in late August/early September. If you do not receive this message but meet the eligibility criteria and are interested in participating, please email the Principal Investigator (PI) using the contact information listed above.

Graduate School Reminders & Guidance

Kroger Discount for TAs, RAs, & GAs

10% off Kroger brands every Friday, Saturday and Sunday

In an exciting new partnership between the University of Kentucky and Kroger, university employees – including TAs, RAs, and GAs – now have access to Kroger's
Fall 2023 ESL Courses

The following ESL courses will be offered in-person during Fall 2023. You can read more about each of these courses [here]. If you are interested in taking one of these courses or if you have any questions, please contact Angela Garner, Lecturer in the Center for English as a Second Language and Coordinator of International Graduate Student Initiatives in the Graduate School.

**ESL 095: Academic Writing for International Graduate Students**

This class is designed to assist international students prepare for academic writing at the graduate level. Particular attention is given to writing conventions in the United States, and there is an emphasis on learning and applying the process of writing (drafting, revision, editing, and proofreading). Students will also learn about the importance of academic honesty at the American University, including how to avoid plagiarism as well as how to evaluate and cite sources in their specific disciplines. Assignments in the class will allow students to investigate writing in their disciplines and then apply what they learn to their own field-specific writing. Sample assignments include an annotated bibliography and a proposal/problem-solution paper.

**ESL 093: Academic Speaking/Listening for International Graduate Students**

This class is designed to help international students develop their oral and aural English skills in a practical environment. Students’ pronunciation patterns are analyzed at the beginning of the semester and time is spent developing a sense of American English sounds, rhythms, and intonation patterns. Course time will also be devoted to helping students develop communication strategies, prepare for and present short presentations, and lead small group as well as roundtable discussions.

**Master's and Doctoral Student Degree Completion Checklists (for personal use only)**

- Master's Students - Thesis (Plan A)
- Master's Students - Non-Thesis (Plan B)
- Doctoral Students

Broader Campus Initiatives
UK HR Work-Life is hosting a free parents and guardians resource fair from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 30, in Ballroom C of the Gatton Student Center.

At this fair, UK employees will have an opportunity to connect with child-friendly resources for school-age children regarding:
- Academic/mental health support
- After school programs
- Camps (fall, spring, summer, no school)
- Extracurricular activities
- Family support

We will use the BBN APP to check-in at the event. You should receive the link when you RSVP.

Contact Azetta Beatty at worklife@uky.edu if you have any questions.
Fellowships & Other Funding Opportunities

**NSF - Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF) (10/18)**

**Description:** The purpose of the Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF) is to support future leaders in mathematics and statistics by facilitating their participation in postdoctoral research environments that will have maximal impact on their future scientific development. There are two options for awardees: Research Fellowship and Research Instructorship. Awards will support research in areas of mathematics and statistics, including applications to other disciplines.

**Announcement Number:** NSF 23-603

**Closing Date:** October 18, 2023

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Researchers led by Dr. Lauren Whitehurst in the Dept. of Psychology at the University of Kentucky are conducting a study to examine how sleep impacts cognition.

**In this study, you will:**

- Complete surveys and computer-based learning tasks
- Visit the UK Sleep Research Lab
  - Address: 1509 Bull Lea Rd, Lexington, KY 40511
- Be involved in the study for 2 weeks total
  - This will include spending 2 nights in the sleep lab.
- Be compensated for your time and effort

**If interested, please contact:**

[uksleepstudy@gmail.com](mailto:uksleepstudy@gmail.com)
NIH - Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research (Admin Supp - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

**Description:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hereby notify Program Director(s)/Principal Investigator(s) (PD(s)/PI(s)) whose research is supported by specific types of research grants that funds are available for administrative supplements to enhance the diversity of the research workforce by recruiting, mentoring, and supporting high school, undergraduate and graduate/clinical students, postbaccalaureate and post Masters individuals, postdoctoral researchers (including health professionals), and eligible investigators from diverse backgrounds, including those from groups that have been shown to be underrepresented in health-related research. This supplement opportunity is also available to support PD(s)/PI(s) of research grants who are or become disabled and need additional support to accommodate their disability in order to continue to work on the research project. The activities proposed in the supplement application must fall within the scope of the parent grant, and simultaneously advance the objectives of the parent grant and support the research training and professional development of the supplement candidate.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is designed specifically for applicants proposing research that does not involve leading an independent clinical trial, a clinical trial feasibility study, or an ancillary clinical trial. Applicants to this NOFO are permitted to propose research experience in a clinical trial led by a mentor or co-mentor.

**Activity Code:** Admin supplement – dependent on research grant

**Announcement Number:** PA-23-189

**Closing Date:** Submission dates vary by awarding IC. See Table of IC-Specific Information, Requirements and Staff Contacts for more details.


NIH - Maximizing the Scientific Value of Data Generated by the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program: Ruth L. Kirschstein NRSA Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship (F32) (11/01)

**Description:** This NOFO seeks to advance research and training in high-priority areas of child health by stimulating the use of Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Cohort data by postdoctoral fellows from relevant scientific communities. This RFA will provide opportunities for fellows to study child health outcomes through the analysis of ECHO’s large longitudinal data sets within the NICHD Data and Specimen Hub (DASH) repository. ECHO’s DASH dataset integrates deidentified longitudinal data from more than 41,000 participants across the U.S. Prenatal and child exposure data include
physical, chemical, social, behavioral, and biological factors. ECHO’s five primary pediatric outcome areas are pre-, peri-, and postnatal outcomes, upper and lower airway, obesity, neurodevelopment, and positive health.

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not allow the candidate to be supported by the award to propose to lead an independent clinical trial, but does allow them to propose research experience in a clinical trial led by a sponsor or co-sponsor.

Activity Code: F32 Postdoctoral Individual National Research Service Award

Announcement Number: RFA-OD-23-019

Companion Funding Opportunity: RFA-OD-23-020, R36 Dissertation Award

Closing Date: November 1, 2023


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**BrightFocus Alzheimer’s Disease Research**

*(08/25)*

**Description:** BrightFocus’ Alzheimer’s Disease Research program is announcing a NEW APPLICATION PROCESS for FY24 (award start date July 01, 2024). Letters of Intent are now being accepted with a deadline of August 25, 2023.

BrightFocus provides funding for domestic and international researchers to cover a wide range of investigator-initiated topics to better understand, treat, and prevent Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias through two mechanisms:

- Post-Doctoral Fellowship Award - $100,000/year for 2 years Must be within 5 years of degree conferral.
- Standard Award - $100,000/year for 3 years

Must be allowed by institution to apply for and manage a grant award and mentor students.

**Closing Date:** LOI due August 25, 2023

**Link to Full Announcement:** https://science.brightfocus.org/research/alzheimers-disease-research/rfp?utm_source=grants&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FY24_ADR_RFP_EA3&utm_term=ADR

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**Encore News**

**Outside Examiner, Doctoral Final Examination**

The Graduate School assigns a UK faculty member to serve as the Outside Examiner (required by GS regulations) for the Doctoral Final Examination. It is the responsibility of the candidate to coordinate with the entire advisory committee (which includes the Outside Examiner) to find an agreed upon date and time in which the examination will be held.

It is suggested that the candidate send a ‘save the date’ to each of the advisory committee members, especially the Outside Examiner. Additionally, it is recommended the candidate communicate (via phone, text, or email) with the Outside Examiner the week leading up to the final examination to ensure that person is still available to serve.
Graduate Certificates Processing and Administration

1) Each student who is eligible to be awarded a certificate must be officially admitted into the certificate program (contact our admission office for assistance if needed).

2) All students will now be required to apply for certificate in MyUK, same process as when students apply for degrees: [https://myuk.uky.edu/irj/portal](https://myuk.uky.edu/irj/portal) (Click on Student Services /myRecords / Graduate Degree Application).

3) Please be aware of the deadlines for applying for degree/certificate are as follows:
   - December: November 1
   - May: April 1
   - August: April 1

4) If a student is admitted to the certificate beginning Summer Session 2023 and want to graduate in August, they will have to fill out the attached form and return to Meghan in place of the online form.

5) We are no longer using the certificate completion forms (the audit will be used to certify graduate certificates). If there are exceptions/substitutions, you will still need to seek assistance from Meghan Herschelman, meghan.duffy@uky.edu.

Policy on Oral Graduate Committee-Based Defenses and Exams

All members of a student’s graduate committee are expected to attend and participate in any oral examination as part of the student’s graduate (Master’s or Doctoral) degree program. Traditionally, oral examinations are conducted with the student meeting with their committee while gathered in one physical location on campus. However, the need occasionally arises for virtual participation in the oral examination.

If a department or program chooses to allow virtual participation in oral examinations, in addition to the exam policy guidelines described under the degree requirement sections, they must also ensure adherence to the following technical requirements. Departments or programs may enforce stricter guidelines than those outlined, including an on-campus-only policy if deemed necessary and appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Graduate Studies for each program to ensure that the student and their full committee all agree on any type of exam format other than the standard in-person exam.

The Graduate School must be notified of the modality by which the oral exam will be conducted: in-person, virtual or hybrid. This information must be included in the Comment field of the request for the QE or Final exam form and does not need to be approved in advance of the exam.

**Technical Requirements**

In cases where departments or programs allow any level of virtual participation, from one virtual member to a fully virtual event, they must adhere to the following requirements:

1. Prior to any oral exam, the student and Committee Chair coordinate with other committee members regarding the protocol for the exam.
2. All participants must join using university-adopted videoconferencing tools that allow for fully interactive audio and video communications along with screen-sharing capabilities, which must be maintained throughout the examination and any related discussion.
3. The use of audio-only communications is not permitted.
4. Participation merely by viewing a recording of the oral examination is specifically prohibited.
5. All members of the committee, on- or off-site, must participate in the final evaluation of the examination or defense; provisions must be made to record their votes and collect their signatures as necessary using the system approved by the Graduate School. This must be submitted to the Graduate School as soon as possible, but within 7 days of the exam.

6. The Committee Chair, or another non-student designee, shall be the host of the virtual meeting. A co-host may be assigned so that the event will not be interrupted by technical difficulties. The host should mute all participants (or ask participants to mute themselves) and ask the student to share their screen, if a presentation is involved, in order to make the presentation visible to all attendees. The host must also ensure that appropriate security precautions are taken to prevent any interruptions of the event.

7. Following any public portion of the defense, the host shall ask all non-committee members to leave the meeting, or the host may manually remove them. In programs where the defense has both a public and a private portion, the committee may then continue the event as outlined in their program protocols.

8. Once the committee has completed the examination of the student, the host shall place the student into the waiting room (or have the committee members use a breakout room) so the committee can conduct their deliberations in private.

9. The Committee Chair must have a secondary videoconferencing system available as a back-up in in the case of technical difficulties. Cancellation of the examination should only occur in the case where both the primary and secondary back-up systems fail. If an examination must be rescheduled, it will be done without prejudice to the student. Since committee deliberations are an essential aspect of the examination, completing the examination and final discussion via email or other non-audiovisual means is not an option.

10. If the student or any committee member(s) have a disability that will be impacted by virtual participation, accommodations for participation must be provided.

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**Online Form Submissions for Doctoral Students**

Click Here to Submit a Form

A web-based process is used for submitting the following forms required for doctoral students:

- Advisory committee formation.
- Modifications to advisory committee composition.
- Request to schedule the Qualifying Examination.
- Notification of Intent to Schedule the Final Examination.
- Request for Final Examination**.

Form submission is initiated by the student. Pressing the “Submit” button sends the form to the DGS for review. If changes are required, pressing the “Reject” button will send an e-mail to the student asking them to consult with the DGS. Pressing the “Submit” button forwards the form to the Graduate School for review. All subsequent correspondence from the Graduate School will then be via e-mail. Students can access the forms through a password-protected portal. Please contact the Assistant Dean for Graduate Academic Services with any questions regarding this process.

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**Interstride Connects UK Students to a Global Workforce**

Interstride
All currently enrolled students have access to Interstride and can sign up to create a unique profile by using their myUK login credentials.

The University of Kentucky is partnering with Interstride, a market leader in technology that supports student navigation of industry-related visa processes and options and expands global career opportunities for international students, offering them the resources to have successful careers and providing domestic students the opportunity to discover resources for living and working abroad.

Thesis/Non-Thesis Options (Master’s Degree)

The Graduate Faculty authorizes graduate programs to satisfy requirements for the master's degree by either of two options, thesis (Plan A) or non-thesis, (Plan B). Both options require a minimum of 30 credit hours.

The thesis option (Plan A) requires a minimum of 24 hours of course work plus a thesis, which is produced under the direction of a full or associate member of the Graduate Faculty. While working on the thesis, master’s candidates should register for 6 credits of XXX-768 (Residence Credit for Master’s Degree) in the appropriate department. After meeting coursework and 768 requirements, Plan A master’s degree candidates who are in residence and receiving financial support from the University and/or utilizing University resources while working on the thesis must be enrolled in their departments XXX-768 or XXX-748 (Master’s Thesis Research; 0 credit hours) each semester through to the defense. Registration in 748 guarantees that a student is in full-time status for the purposes of student financial aid and loan deferments. The DGS must certify that the student is working at least halftime (i.e., 20 hours per week) on the thesis. Registration in 748 is limited to a maximum of six semesters (not counting the summer semester).

The Graduate School processes all 748 registrations. The non-thesis option (Plan B) requires six or more graduate credit hours of course work in lieu of a thesis.

Pass-Fail Policy for Graduate Classes

Graduate students are not allowed to take classes P/F per Graduate School Policy, which states: “Graduate courses (400G-799) may not be taken Pass/ Fail.”

For Graduating Master (Plan A & Plan B) and Specialist Students: Degree Audit

Conducting a degree audit is critically important during the semester you intend to graduate. Checking at the start of the semester gives you a view of the requirements you have satisfied and those that are remaining. If you discover a course that was wrongly assigned to a requirement, or not credited, you should bring this to the attention of your DGS (Director of Graduate Studies) or your program advisor. The program should contact the student affairs officer for the area/discipline well in advance of the final examination to resolve. If there are requirements that have not been met, then you and your program will need to decide if there are substitutions that will fulfill that requirement.

Request for Degree Certification Letter
There are 3 requirements that must be fulfilled to receive a degree certification letter:

1) Current Degree Application
2) The Final Examination card returned to GS and the exam is noted on the transcript
3) A final approved copy of the thesis or dissertation (where applicable)

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**Notification of Intent to Schedule a Final Doctoral Examination (NOTIF)**

There are times candidates change the possible defense date, which impacts the advisory committee, especially, the Outside Examiner (OE). If this occurs, the candidate should communicate with the Outside Examiner to insure the ‘new’ final examination date is viable. If the Outside Examiner can’t participate due to the new exam date, then the candidate should re-submit the NOTIF which informs the Graduate School to begin the search for another faculty to serve as OE.

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**Doctoral Advisory Committee**

When faculty members retire or leave the University, they may continue their service on previously established doctoral Advisory Committees but cannot be appointed to new committees. Requests to continue service should be made by the DGS to the Graduate School Dean (**gsdean@uky.edu**), and include the names of all students affected.

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**Graduate-Level Fellowship & Funding Opportunities Webpage**

To streamline the length of the GS Newsletter, only NEW fellowships and funding opportunities will be included each issue. All fellowship and funding opportunities from previous issues will now be listed on a dedicated webpage.

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**Recurring Reminders**

**Responsible Conduct of Research**

Required for ALL Faculty and Graduate Students

An introductory video about the courses, why they are required and how the system works can be found [here].

The RCR Page to get started with your training is [here].
EXCLUSIVELY for Graduate Students and Postdocs

Visit the Clark Study on the fifth floor of William T. Young Library, in the west wing.

The Clark Study is accessible via UK ID card tap.

If your ID does not work or you have any trouble accessing the study, please contact Melissa Barlow with UK Libraries for assistance.

Click Here for More Information

Graduate Student Success Pathways

Chart Your Path to Success!

This initiative is designed for students in all stages of graduate study to optimize their educational experience by taking full advantage of the spectrum of professional enhancement and wellness assistance available to them. To help you along your path, we have created an online portal with resources, initiatives, and actionable steps you can take in each of these four dimensions, at any stage of study, to optimize your graduate experience.

Click here to get started!

Key Dates for Fall 2023

August

- **M 08/07 - W 08/09** - Summer 2023 Prep Days - University of Kentucky offices are open and classes meet normally. No major assignments, quizzes, or exams may be scheduled during prep days.

Essential Campus Resources

Below are links to some essential campus resources for graduate and professional students and postdocs:

- Academic Ombud
- Admissions Officers
- Big Blue Pantry
- Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives
- **R 08/10** - Official end of the Summer 2023 session.
- **R 08/10** - Final examinations for all full-term classes. All final exams are given during normal class hours for Summer Session. Final exams for asynchronous classes are given at a time dictated by the course instructor/syllabus.
- **R 08/10** - Last day for August 2023 degree candidates to submit final revised thesis/dissertation (ETD) to the Graduate School for students who first submitted August 3.
- **Su 08/20** - Last day a student may officially drop a course or withdraw from all classes with the Office of the University Registrar for a full refund.
- **M 08/21** - Fall 2023 classes begin.
- **M 08/21 - F 08/25** - Late registration begins for returning students and applicants cleared for late admission. A late fee is assessed for students who register late.
- **T 08/22** - First Fall 2023 payment deadline. If the total amount due is not paid, a late payment fee of 1.5% of the amount past due will be assessed.
- **F 08/25** - Last day to add a class.
- **F 08/25** - Last day for employees to submit EEP forms to Human Resource Services to confirm Fall 2023 registration and tuition waiver.

*Find more key dates for the rest of the semester on the Registrar's website.*