

Town Hall Notes

April 14, 2020

Regularly check <https://coronavirus.purdue.edu/> for updates

QUESTIONS POSED BY GRADUATE STUDENTS (through survey, meetings with Grad Program, and Town Hall)

1. My internship offer has been rescinded. Does the Dept/School have suggestions for alternate internship opportunities?

You can check the CE student blog for any positions: <http://purduece.blogspot.com/>

You may also contact Kathy Heath (kheath@purdue.edu), Program Administration Manager, CE External Relations Office, to let her know you are interested in a summer internship. Please include the following information in your message to her: your resume, area of interest in civil, and where you would like to find a job (be as flexible as possible). She will let you know of any opportunities she knows about.

2. My student visa is expiring soon and I was planning to travel to my home country and apply for the renewal. But due to travel ban, it has been difficult to get tickets, and there are issues with return to the US. Any suggestions?

Please contact ISS (Office of International Students and Scholars). Many questions are addressed at: <https://www.purdue.edu/IPPU/ISS/immigrationChanges.html>.

For international students returning for academic programs in Fall 2020, the recommendation is to **not travel outside the US as it may be difficult for you to return.**

3. Will Fall 2020 classes be conducted in person?

We do not know. The University decision will be made by June 15, 2020. But a fraction of the graduate classes will likely be offered with a remote/online delivery option.

4. Will lab-based research work get back to 'normal' in summer and fall? We have concerns with slowing down of research.

Not sure when we will be back to “normal” (pre-COVID 19 status). Critical research that must be done in labs is allowed but is being scheduled carefully. Your advisor should enter data on the EVPRP site for compliance. Your advisor would need to inform Dr. Govindaraju about the times you are likely to be in the lab.

5. Students expressed concern that they have been asked to vacate from their apartments owned by Purdue by mid May 2020, as the students were expecting to graduate in May 2020, - but travel is not possible now. Any suggestion for addressing this concern?

This is very tough question to answer. Once a student graduates, they cease to be part of the Purdue academic system. The apartment situation is also beyond the control of the School. You may be able to find some resources at: <https://offcampushousing.purdue.edu/>.

6. What plans are in place for funding of currently supported graduate students:

Students who are funded or have funding commitments from Purdue for Summer 2020 and Fall 2020, are in the U.S., and can do the work (TA or RA work) remotely during Summer 2020 and Fall 2020, can get paid. Please check with your advisor.

There is a Critical Need Fund / Disaster and Emergency Student Assistance Fund, through Purdue's Dean of Students Office. Please check the following link:

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/resources/critical-need-fund.html>

7. What can you do if you think you've been exposed to COVID-19?

You can contact the Center for Healthy Living (CHL) at 765-494-2135 to speak with a nurse who will ask questions and guide you through a COVID-19 screening to help determine if you have potentially been exposed and what your next plan of action needs to be, such as resuming normal stay-at-home activity/work, self-quarantining or seeking in-person healthcare.

If you are advised to quarantine or seek additional healthcare, you will be provided a doctor's note from the CHL, which outlines your care and the number of days required to quarantine, etc.

Other helpful information can be found at:

Center for Disease Control (CDC) website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Findex.html

Check the link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html> (for information about making your own face mask at home – no sewing required)

Other discussion themes

1. Suggestions to help work from home:

- Get Dressed each morning, as you prepare for the day's activities
- Arrange a set "work" location
- Set blocks of work time
 - Arrange for transition time before and after
 - Don't get distracted by social media or the news (take a break from social media for set periods during the day and/or week)
- Pay attention to your health
 - Eat well
 - Get exercise
 - Socialize
 - Listen to music, play with your kids or pets

2. Insurance Coverage:

If you were on assistantship insurance in spring 2020, but you won't be funded in summer 2020, you do have to purchase insurance for the summer. Check with Student Insurance for details:

<https://www.purdue.edu/push/index.html>.

3. Faculty advisor/Instructor expectations:

There will be a Civil Faculty Town Hall on Thursday, April 16, 2020. We will discuss these concerns with the faculty at this meeting. However, be sure to communicate any issues you are having to your advisor and ask for priorities with the workload.

4. For May 2020 Graduates:

Departure Form will not need to be completed – however you will need to return any Civil equipment (laptop, tablets, etc.), building/room keys, credit cards. We will develop a process for the return of these items and let you know. For Environmental Engineering students with lab space, please work with Nadya to determine how to clean out your work space

5. Plan of Study:

If this is your second semester as a master's student or third semester as a PhD student, you still need to get your plan of study done. Please make your "best guess" at future courses. You can make any required updates later.

If you need to switch between thesis and non-thesis option, you can do that. You just need to generate a change to your Plan making the appropriate request.

6. Registration for summer and fall:

If you need to register for CE courses/research hours for summer, please email your advisor for permission. For research hours, be sure to include the course number (CE 698 or CE 699), the CRN and how many credits you should be registered for. If you are setting up an independent study course, please supply a title (30 characters or less) and the number of credits for the independent study. Once you have your advisor's permission, please forward the email to Jenny Ricksy (jricksy@purdue.edu) to get registered. Please have this information to Jenny no later than May 13, 2020

For courses outside Civil, you can just use the Add/Drop link through your myPurdue account.

What do you do to help you relax/de-stress? - Suggestions from Graduate Students attending the Town Hall

Please feel free to let us if you have other suggestions

- Watch a favorite movie
- Cook
- Read a book
- Take a walk
- Listen to music