Graduate Students,

We are writing in an effort to provide communication regarding deadlines for the Spring 2020 semester. University administration, staff, and faculty continue ongoing communications as we try to be agile, helpful, and make decisions about an ever-changing situation.

The Graduate School remains operational, although the staff is now working remotely. You may contact us as follows:

http://louisville.edu/graduate/

Phone, if you need to speak to someone in the Graduate School, please call 502-852-6495 between 9:00am and 4:30pm, Monday thru Friday. An operator will address your inquiry, take a message and route to the appropriate Graduate School staff.

Email:

Graduate Admissions: gradadm@louisville.edu

Student Services: graduate@louisville.edu or Courtney Kerr clkerr01@louisville.edu

Professional Development: Michelle Rodems, mrrode01@louisville.edu

Recruitment and Diversity: Tamekka Cornelius at tlcorn01@louisville.edu

Please continue to follow social distancing and preventative hygiene practices, including conducting most of our work remotely.

Dissertation and thesis defenses may continue to be held, but should be restricted to the candidate and the committee (e.g., without an audience, for those disciplines that have such a practice). Students are encouraged to do as much as possible through remote access (resources available here). Currently the April 24, 2020 deadline is still the deadline to submit the final copy of the dissertation or thesis. Please contact your graduate program or the Courtney Kerr clkerr01@louisville.edu in the Graduate School in the case of extenuating hardship for guidance.

Signature pages the Graduate School is currently working on an electronic signature page, which will allow for digital signatures. Once the form is completed, we will add it to our web-site and will send a separate e-mail to students who have applied for a Spring 2020 degree.

Doctoral Hooding and Graduation Ceremony and Commencement Ceremony has been postponed for Spring 2020. The health and safety of our students, their families, and our
community are of utmost concern. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and following the guidance from the CDC regarding social distancing and large events and mass gatherings, the University of Louisville will postpone the Spring 2020 Commencement ceremonies until December 2020. Let us be clear, the date for spring degree conferral remains May 9, 2020, and students approved to graduate this spring will be awarded the degrees and certificates they have earned. Student Commencement Awards for Spring 2020 will still be awarded, and the award winners will be recognized for their outstanding achievements at the December event. For those students who have ordered their caps & gowns, Jostens will cancel these orders and the credit card used to pay for the order will be automatically refunded. We know that this is disappointing for our students who have worked to complete their degrees, as well as for their families. Please know that we are proud of you and look forward to celebrating your accomplishment when it is safe to do so. Once we have finalized the details regarding December 2020 Commencement, the commencement website will be updated, and you will be notified. We look forward to celebrating your academic accomplishments during the December 2020 Commencement ceremonies.

Graduate Dean’s Reception and Celebration of Excellence in Diversity has been postponed to a later date.

Candidacy and qualifying exams may continue as scheduled, with encouragement for doing as much as possible through remote access (resources available here).

Deadlines regarding graduation will continue to be honored as published. At this point in time, the Academic Calendar remains unchanged.

Opportunities for professional development will continue yet move to a virtual format. More information will be sent through the graduate student listserv and will be posted to the Graduate School web-site.

We know that this may be a stressful time and would like to encourage you to practice self-care, and reach out for support as needed. The University Counseling Center is also operational. Please contact their office for specific resources and appointments.

Resources
- Campus Health Center
- On-Campus Food Pantry
- Counseling Center
- Graduate School Emergency Fund
- Student Affairs Emergency Fund

Sincerely,

Courtney Kerr | Coordinator of Academic Services
University of Louisville | Graduate School
Belknap | Houchens Building, Suite 105
Phone: 502.852.6497 | Fax: 502.852.2365
ckkerr01@louisville.edu