Timely Topics is a series of opportunities to engage with subject matter experts on topics relevant to those who support and advise graduate students and programs. We've identified some sessions that will be of particular interest to faculty, but every session is available to all UConn faculty and staff, regardless of track. All sessions will be held as a WebEx meeting and links for each meeting will be sent directly to registrants. If you have any questions or topic suggestions, please contact Megan Petsa at megan.petsa@uconn.edu.
SUPervising Graduate Assistants

REGISTRATION HERE

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021 - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Join us for a facilitated dialogue around Graduate Assistant supervision. We will discuss the intersection of the employee role and the academic role, approaches to address employee performance and misconduct, and ways to connect a struggling GA with assistance and support. We will discuss conversation starters, tools available to you, how to refer to resources, and how to document conversations.

Facilitators:
Cinnamon Adams, The Graduate School
Alison Cutler, Office of Faculty & Staff Labor Relations
Megan Petsa, The Graduate School

Fellowships and Awards

REGISTRATION HERE

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

The Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships (ONSF) advises and mentors students at the University of Connecticut who are competing for prestigious, nationally-competitive scholarships and fellowships. But what does that mean for graduate students? Join us to learn specifically how ONSF could be a resource for graduate students throughout their time here at UConn along with information on some of the most sought out awards for graduate students, including Fulbright and NSF GRFP.

Facilitators:
Rowena Grainger, Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships
LuAnn Saunders-Kanabay, Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships

Graduate Student Mental Health and the Role of the Advisor

REGISTRATION HERE

Wednesday, Mar. 10, 2021 - 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Please join us for a special Timely Topics session with Provost Carl Lejuez on graduate student mental health. This session is designed for faculty advisors and will discuss the ethic of care involved in the advisor/advisee relationship, how it is vital for student productivity and well-being, and how to support an advisee who seems to be struggling. We will cover what questions you can/should ask and what to do with the information you receive. The guidance shared will also be informed by data gathered by Student Health and Wellness (SHaW), including what graduate students want advisors to know about challenges they face and how advisor support could be transformative.

Facilitator:
Carl Lejuez, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

When the Plan Isn't Solely to Pursue an Academic Job: Nurturing Career Conversations with Your Advisees

REGISTRATION HERE

Thursday, Apr. 22, 2021 - 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Graduate students often first seek career advice from those who know them best, but they can also be hesitant to do so. In this session, we will discuss how advisors can support doctoral candidates who may not be pursuing jobs in academia and those who want to “keep their options open.” Join us to discuss individual conversation starters and departmental approaches that facilitate career inclusivity and to learn about resources available to guide and support a graduate student’s career exploration.

Facilitators:
Dr. Jane Anna Gordon, Department of Political Science
Kay Kimball Gruder, Center for Career Development (Storrs)
As departments and programs develop their Summer/Fall 2021 orientations, The Graduate School invites you to learn more about our experiences in building and implementing our orientation program. The information in this session may be helpful to you as you prepare and implement your department orientation. We will share the philosophy that guides our planning and implementation, as well as discuss our transition to an online orientation format. Additionally, we will demonstrate some of the orientation modules and discuss assessment results we have received over the past few years regarding what students have found most helpful. TGS orientation serves all graduate students, so we will also speak to how we strive to meet a wide variety of general student needs (e.g., Ph.D., Master’s, regional campuses, UCH, etc.). There will also be an opportunity to discuss ways in which The Graduate School and departments can collaborate further to help graduate students transition to graduate school.

Join the Special Payroll Team for information regarding processing deadlines, appointment titles, and related policies for hiring graduate students on Special Payroll for Summer 2021.

**GRADUATE STUDENTS AND SPECIAL PAYROLL**

**Wednesday, Mar. 3, 2021 · 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

**REGISTER HERE**

**THE GRADUATE SCHOOL’S NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK**

**Thursday, Mar. 25, 2021 · 11:00 am to 12:00 pm**

As departments and programs develop their Summer/Fall 2021 orientations, The Graduate School invites you to learn more about our experiences in building and implementing our orientation program. The information in this session may be helpful to you as you prepare and implement your department orientation. We will share the philosophy that guides our planning and implementation, as well as discuss our transition to an online orientation format. Additionally, we will demonstrate some of the orientation modules and discuss assessment results we have received over the past few years regarding what students have found most helpful. TGS orientation serves all graduate students, so we will also speak to how we strive to meet a wide variety of general student needs (e.g., Ph.D., Master’s, regional campuses, UCH, etc.). There will also be an opportunity to discuss ways in which The Graduate School and departments can collaborate further to help graduate students transition to graduate school.

**INTERNATIONAL TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

**Thursday, Apr 8, 2021 · 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm**

This session will focus on International Teaching Assistants and is a great opportunity for faculty and staff to ask any questions they may have about the English proficiency policy and how it intersects with hiring TAs, who needs to provide proof of English proficiency (and when!). ITA orientation, and the microteaching test.

**Facilitators:**
Sarah Knapp, Human Resources
Heather Souer, Human Resources

**Facilitators:**
Cinnamon Adams, The Graduate School
Stuart Duncan, The Graduate School

**Facilitators:**
Ana Colon, International Teaching Assistant Services
Jeannie Slayton, Global Affairs
**GRADUATE ADMISSIONS FORUM**

REGISTRATION HERE  
Thursday, May 13, 2021 ·  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Join the Graduate Admissions and GradSlate teams to debrief the recent admissions cycle and hear updates regarding the next cycle and Slate. Some topics that will be included are a new and improved tab for test scores in the Reader, and the new GradSlate User portal. We will also revisit Slate reports programs may find useful for admission stats, documentation, presentations from 2020 & 2021, and future trainings. Please bring your observations, questions, and items for your “wish list”.

**Facilitators:**  
Anne Lanzit, Graduate Admissions  
Meg Drakos, Graduate Admissions  
Holly Brunette, Graduate Admissions  
Shirley Fiasconaro, Graduate Admissions  
Kim Lachut, Slate Core Team  
Marie LeBlanc, Slate Core Team  
Lisa Pane, Slate Core Team

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**GRADUATE ASSISTANT PAYROLL PROCESSES**

REGISTRATION HERE  
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 ·  
11:00 am to 12:00 pm

This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have about the process of adding incoming or continuing grads to payroll for Fall 2021. Some of the topics we will cover include SmartHR templates, payroll overrides, tuition waiver issues, and supplemental employment.

**Facilitators:**  
Gena Twarz, Payroll Department  
Megan Petsa, The Graduate School