

GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWS



APRIL 2020



In compliance with the governor's "Stay-At-Home" mandate, SIUC Graduate School is operating virtually until the order is lifted. For the time being, all essential Graduate School operations are continuously performed remotely by phone, email, and other virtual tools.

WILLIS SWARTZ GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Our selection committee has chosen two winners this year for the Willis Swartz Award. Congratulations to **Sudip Baral**, Master's student studying Civil Engineering and **Sreehari Surendran Rajasree**, Ph.D. student studying Chemistry and Biochemistry.

OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD

The Outstanding Thesis Award Committee recognizes scholars from diverse academic programs all across campus. For 2019-2020, the faculty committee selected two scholars to receive this award. Congratulations!

Casey J. Bryan, Plant Biology

Thesis Title: The Efficacy of Cover Crops for Pollinator Habitat Provision and Weed Suppression in a Southern Illinois Agroecosystem

Samuel Smucker, Cinema and Photography

Thesis Title: The Baadasssss and the Avant-Garde: The Radical Aesthetics and Politics of Melvin Van Peebles

Dates and Deadlines

April 3

Dissertation Research Assistantship Award (DRA) nominations from Deans due to Graduate School

April 10 (extended deadline)

Deadline to make initial submission of Research Paper, Thesis, or Dissertation for May 2020 graduation (Required!)

April 15

Graduate Scholarship Program (GSP) fall name list due to Graduate School
Deadline for receipt of Graduate School Tuition Scholarship applications for the summer semester

April 17 (extended deadline)

Deadline to make final submission of Research Paper, Thesis, or Dissertation for May 2020 graduation (Required!)

April 17

Dissertation Research Assistantship Award (DRA) announcements

April 24

Last day to add a full-term course with instructor approval through the Graduate Registration Office

Graduate School Policies and Procedural Changes/Updates due to COVID-19

Thesis/Dissertation/Research Paper Defense and Approval

The following changes to thesis/dissertation/research paper procedures are being implemented effective immediately in order to accommodate the restrictions due to COVID-19.

- Student defense of their paper may be held via teleconference, internet software (e.g., Zoom, Virtual Classroom, Microsoft Teams), or even by email, as is feasible and appropriate for the student and the committee members. The most important part is that participants must be able to communicate with each other.
- It is preferred (but not required) that there be at least one committee member (or an SIU staff member) in the room with the student during the defense.
- Contact Carroll Walker at cgwalker@siu.edu at the Center for Teaching Excellence if you need assistance with setting up a virtual defense meeting. <https://cte.siu.edu/>
- Any member of the graduate faculty may "attend" the defense and may participate in questioning and discussion, subject to reasonable limitations imposed by the chairperson of the committee. Please allow for non-committee faculty to participate, if they are interested.
- The thesis/dissertation/research paper approval and oral defense forms may be signed and submitted electronically to rmtmoroz@siu.edu. The forms on the Graduate School website <https://gradschool.siu.edu/about-us/forms.php> have the e-signature feature enabled. (Be sure to download and save the form to your computer, then open it in Adobe Reader, in order to access the signature feature). There is an "Instructions for E-Signing Approval Forms" document on this same webpage.
- Members who are unable to sign due to technology issues should consult the instructions document mentioned above. If they still cannot sign, they should send an email to Dr. Rose Moroz, Assistant Dean at rmtmoroz@siu.edu and explain the situation.
- If the approval forms have been signed by hand (by any of the signers), then they should be initially submitted by scanning and emailing, but eventually the originals must also be sent to the Graduate School. They can be sent via campus mail or held until we return to campus and hand-delivered to the Graduate School.
- The deadline for initial submission of papers to the Graduate School is Friday, April 10, and the deadline for final submission of papers to the Graduate School is Friday, April 17. These deadlines have been delayed by one week from what was originally posted. Students must meet both of these deadlines to be considered for a May 2020 graduation. Students submitting after these deadlines may be considered for an August 2020 graduation.

Admissions and English Proficiency Requirements

- English proficiency testing for international graduate applicants: For international students affected by testing center closures, SIUC has approved the use of the Duolingo English Test for demonstrating English proficiency. A minimum score of 105 on a Duolingo English Test taken between January 1 and August 17,

2020 will fulfill English proficiency requirements for most graduate programs at SIUC. The following links will provide more information about the Duolingo English test:

<https://testcenter.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/sections/360001819272-Preparing-for-the-Duolingo-English-Test>
<https://englishtest.duolingo.com/applicants>

- Admission decisions will be based on UNOFFICIAL transcripts from all countries. Official transcripts will still need to be received by the Graduate School prior to first registration.
- The Department of Homeland Security has approved sending scanned I-20's. When students are admitted, they may still receive a paper copy of their I-20 by following the usual eShipGlobal procedure. However, if students would like to receive a scanned version instead, they may contact our International Admissions Officer at christine.sellars@siu.edu

Registration

- Requests for drops or withdrawals from full semester length courses should be submitted to gradregistration@siu.edu by Friday, April 3.
- Students can drop (with W grade) a full-term course via SalukiNet SSB (Self-Service Banner) through Sunday, April 5.
- Ph.D. students can begin registering for classes on Wednesday, April 8th at 8:30am.
- Master's and Nondeclared students can begin registering for classes on Thursday, April 9th. The time students can begin registering for classes is by their last name. The times are at <https://registrar.siu.edu/students/advancereg.php>.
- For instructions on how to claim a dawg tag and register for classes, students may visit <https://registrar.siu.edu/students/registration.php>.
- Students who attempt to register for a class and get an error should contact the instructor and/or department/program to request an override. The Graduate School cannot enter overrides without written permission from the instructor/department/program.

For Dawg Tag Lookup, go to <https://sisweb.eis.siu.edu/sis/dawgtag/> . If you need further assistance, please send an email to gradschl@siu.edu.

