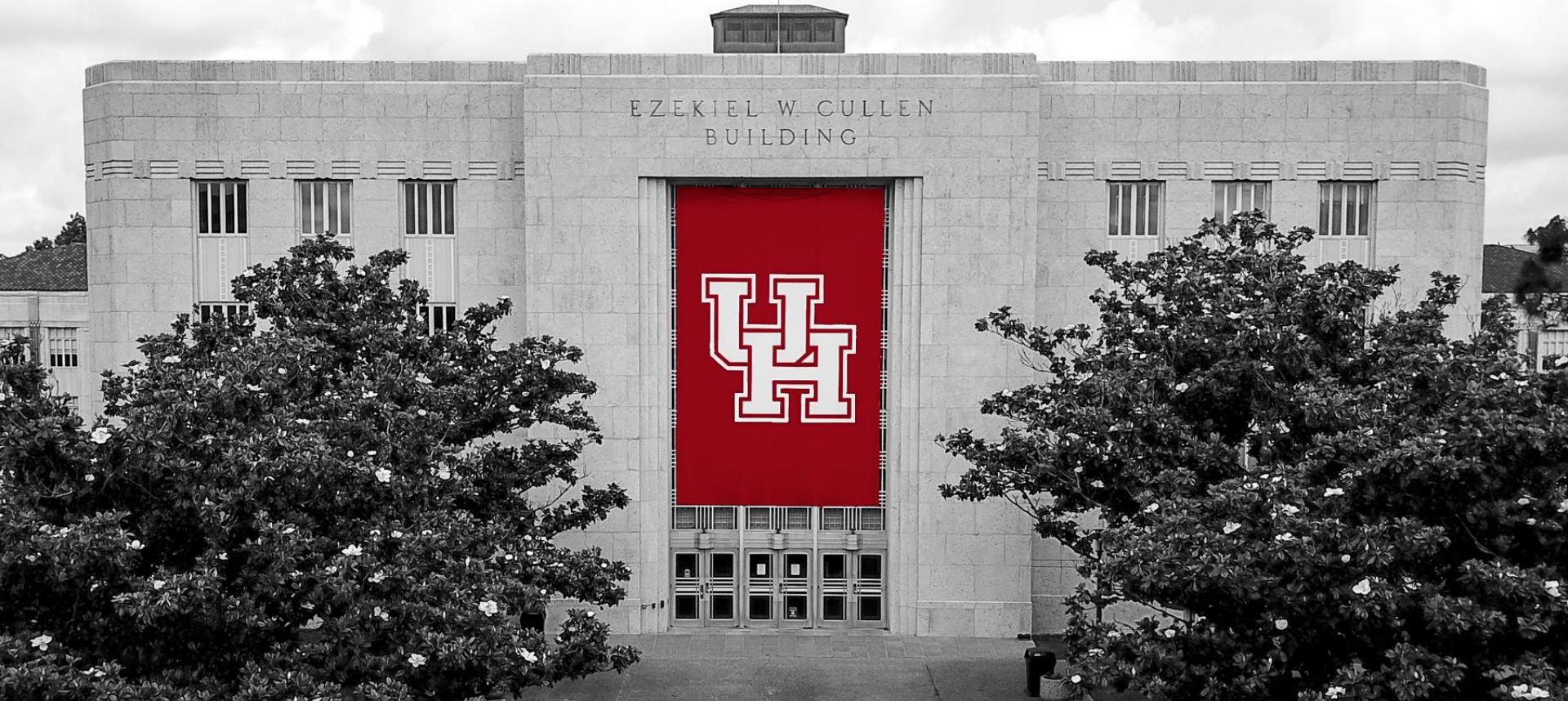


# GRADUATE ADVISOR MEETING

Updates and Reminders

March 16, 2021

*We will begin shortly*



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | GRADUATE SCHOOL

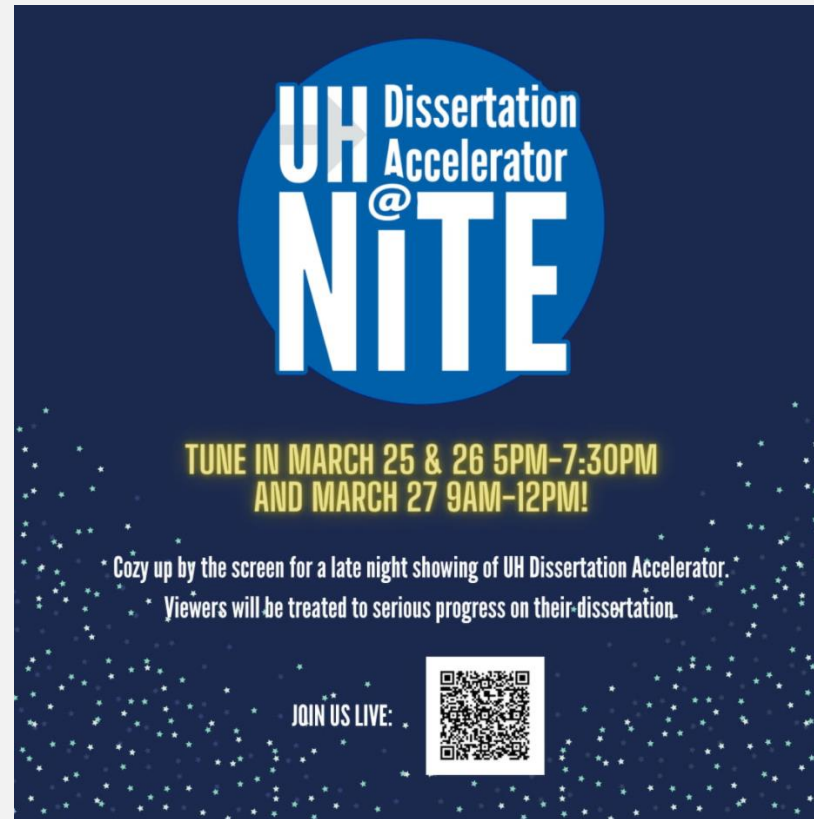
# ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES



**Tashemia V. Jones, Ed.D.**

*Assistant Director,  
Academic Affairs*

# DISSERTATION ACCELERATOR @ NITE



Deadline to apply is March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
[https://www.uh.edu/graduate-school/academics/thesis/dissertation\\_accelerator/](https://www.uh.edu/graduate-school/academics/thesis/dissertation_accelerator/)

# REMINDERS & UPDATES

- Please check on your students' status
- Check the status of LOA's and medical leaves every semester
- Ensure students are enrolling on time in the correct courses
- Late enrollment should be as minimal to none
- Apply to graduate on time
- Please check with the ISSSO office for late registration for international students
  - Please check the status of your international students, ensure they are enrolled in the required courses



# **Shawn Washington**

*Associate Director,  
Graduate and  
International Admissions*

# ARCHIVING SP2021 APPS

- **February (Archiving Spring 2021)  
Admissions Applications**

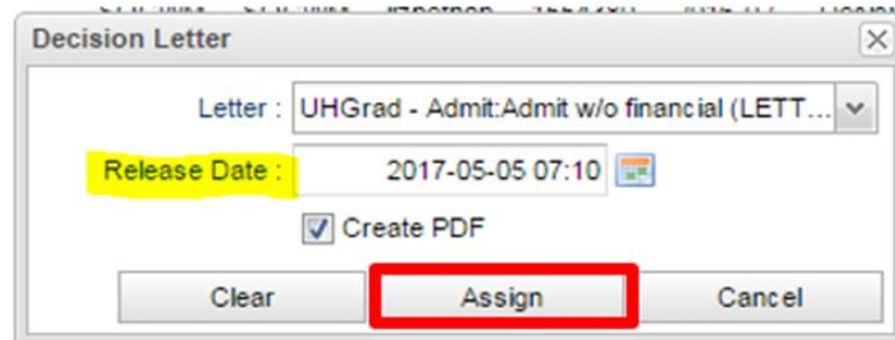
If no decisions updated CN

Applications will change automatically to "Withdrawal Status" and withdrawal letters released to applicants.

# BEST PRACTICES: DECISION LETTERS

If an applicant cannot see a decision letter, be sure to verify the release date; if it's future dated, then the applicant will not be able to see it until that date.

Click “Assign.”



The image shows a screenshot of a software dialog box titled "Decision Letter". The dialog box contains the following elements:

- A dropdown menu labeled "Letter:" with the selected option "UHGrad - Admit:Admit w/o financial (LETT...".
- A text field labeled "Release Date:" containing the date and time "2017-05-05 07:10". The label "Release Date:" is highlighted in yellow.
- A checked checkbox labeled "Create PDF".
- Three buttons at the bottom: "Clear", "Assign", and "Cancel". The "Assign" button is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

# BEST PRACTICES: DECISION LETTERS

As with entering decisions, reconfirm that the college/program decision fields in CN are updated with the same response.

The screenshot displays a web form with two sections. The first section is titled "Program Admission Decision" and contains a dropdown menu labeled "Program Decision :" with the selected option "Admit - Unconditional". The second section is titled "College Admission Decision" and contains a dropdown menu labeled "College Admission Decision :" with the selected option "Admit - Unconditional". Both dropdown menus have a small downward-pointing arrow on the right side.



# DECISION “OFFER” LETTER

- Remember that decision/Offer “letters” are released from CollegeNet through the applicant’s ApplyWeb account.
- There’s no direct email going out to Applicants.
- Applicants will need to log back into their ApplyWeb accounts to view their offer letters.

# SPECIAL ADMIT REQUEST REMINDERS:

## **Graduate School Petition:**

<https://uh.edu/graduate-school/forms/gpsp-updated-petition-102020.pdf>

## **Approval Signatures**

## **Supporting Documents**

## **Why is this applicant special?**

# GENERAL REMINDERS

- Deactivating CN Access: On-going review of Faculty and Campus Staff Members.
- Annual Changes to Admissions Applications.



**Bina Benavides, M.P.A.**

*Program Manager, Recruiting*

# UH GRADUATE SCHOOL VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSIONS SUMMARY SPRING 2021

Month	Sessions	RSVPs	Attendees	Percentage Attended
Jan-21	12	569	174	31%
Feb-21	8	329	125	38%
Mar-21	7	204	68	33%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1102</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>34%</b>

Fairs/Outside Events	
Event Date	Event Type
Feb 9 2021	Texas State University Virtual Fair
Mar 25 2021	Lonestar Tomball Virtual Career Fair

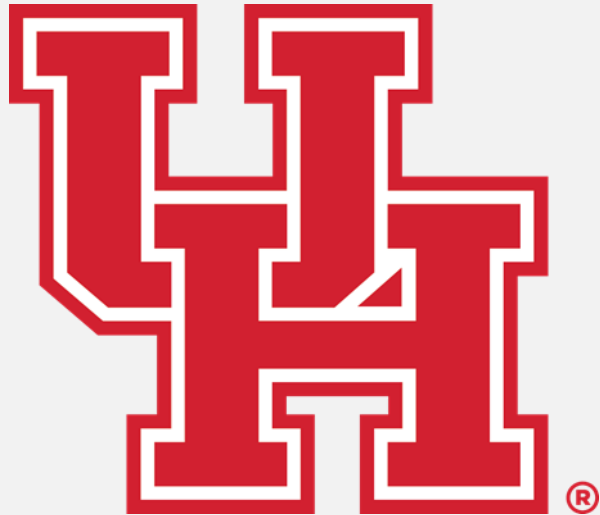
Interested in partnering to do a virtual information sessions and/or outside events contact Bina Benavides at [bbenavi2@central.uh.edu](mailto:bbenavi2@central.uh.edu).

# UH GRADUATE SCHOOL VIRTUAL INFORMATION SCHEDULED

<b>Event Date</b>	<b>Event Type</b>
15-Mar-21	UHGS General Information Session
16-Mar-21	UHGS General Information Session
22-Mar-21	UHGS CLASS Information Session
23-Mar-21	UHGS General Information Session
24-Mar-21	UHGS STEM Information Session
29-Mar-21	UHGS General Information Session
30-Mar-21	UHGS STEM Information Session
31-Mar-21	UHGS CLASS Information Session
5-Apr-21	UHGS General Information Session
6-Apr-21	UHGS General Information Session
14-Apr-21	UHGS Hobby School of Public Affairs Info. Session
27-Apr-21	UHGS CLASS Master of Public Administration Information Session

Interested in partnering to do a virtual information sessions and/or outside events contact Bina Benavides at [bbenavi2@central.uh.edu](mailto:bbenavi2@central.uh.edu).

# I-20 processing



**Christen Powers**

*SEVIS Compliance*

*Coordinator*

# GRADUATE I-20 PROCESSING

- Deferment processing has been completed
- Students that do not yet have their I-20, please contact [gradschool@uh.edu](mailto:gradschool@uh.edu)



# SUMMER ARRIVALS

- Students arriving in Summer are required to:
- Arrive by June 7, 2021, which is the first day of classes for Summer.
- Enroll full time for Summer Session 1
- Enroll in one face to face course

# LATE ARRIVALS

- Late arrivals require a Graduate Admissions petition with all approvals.
- Students requesting late arrival must be able to arrive before ORD.
- Any student arriving to study in the United States must enroll and be successful in academic courses in order to maintain status.
- Any questions regarding late arrival can be sent to [gradschool@uh.edu](mailto:gradschool@uh.edu)



# **Stefan Johnsson**

*SEVIS Compliance Sr.*

*Coord.*

*International Student*

*and Scholar Services*

# SPRING 2021 REPORTING UPDATES

- **All F-1 students requiring a F2F/Hybrid course have one and reporting for this semester is complete.**
- **COVID-19 has made reporting quite different for our office. We will continue to work through any issues that may arise. Be extra diligent regarding communication with students who began studying at UH pre- and post-March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Keep Grad Admissions/ISSSO involved and double check if you are not sure something is or isn't allowed.**

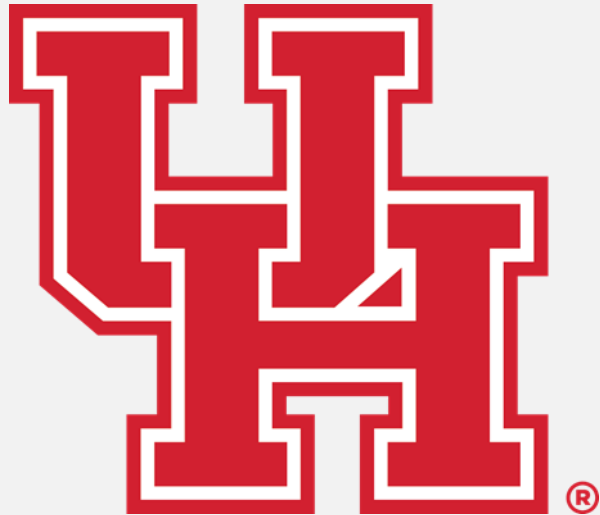
# SUMMER I-20 START DATES

- **Summer I-20 program start means 6hrs of enrollment. One class has to be F2F/Hybrid.**
  - **This rule would be enforced no matter if under COVID-19 pandemic SEVP guidance or UH returns to normal operations.**
  - **Summer session 1 course required for the F2F/Hybrid class.**

# CPT/OPT AND SEVP GUIDANCE FOR COVID-19

- SEVP Q&A Guidance states:
- **Does time spent studying outside of the United States during the COVID-19 emergency count toward the one-year requirement for CPT and OPT?** An F student accrues eligibility for practical training whether they are inside or outside of the United States during the COVID-19 emergency [IF THE STUDENT IS IN ACTIVE STATUS IN SEVIS](#) and meets the requirements of their school's procedural change plans submitted to SEVP.
- A student becomes active in SEVIS when they enter the U.S. and are registered for classes after having checked in with our office (ISSSO).
- Summer cannot count as one semester. It has to be fall and spring semesters completed in Active SEVIS status.
- **How will your department plan to handle master's students with only one semester left of study and who are not in active status yet due to studying abroad?**

# EVENTS



## **Chastyne Blacklock**

*Events Coordinator &  
Executive Assistant to  
Vice Provost and Dean,  
Graduate School*

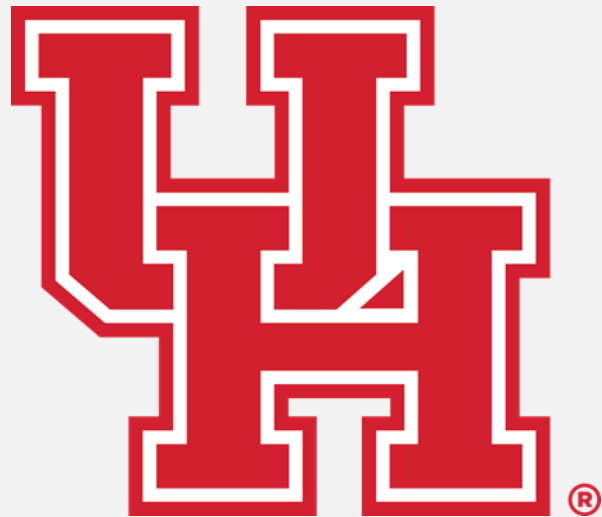
# UPCOMING EVENT:

## Graduate Research Showcase – 2021 Virtual Poster Session

The top 10 graduate student winners will be eligible to receive a \$250 scholarship award

- Open to all graduate and professional students
- Registration closed March 10th
- 62 students registered to participate
- Currently we are complying posters for UH Branding to approve
- Judging will begin next week





## **Dr. Sarah Larsen**

*Vice Provost and Dean of  
the Graduate School*

*Dept.*

# 2020 Graduate Student Experience Survey

Dr. Sarah Larsen, Dean of the Graduate School & Prof. Christiane Spitzmueller,  
Department of Psychology

# METHODOLOGY

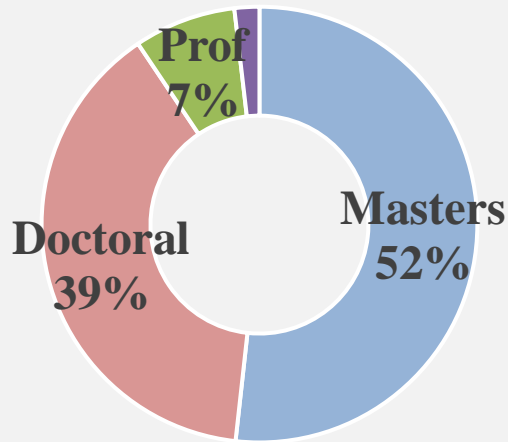
## Survey-based tool with validated measures

- Developed with Department of Psychology, CAPS and GPSA input
- Confidential student responses from **N=1118** graduate and professional students
- Survey opened December, 2020



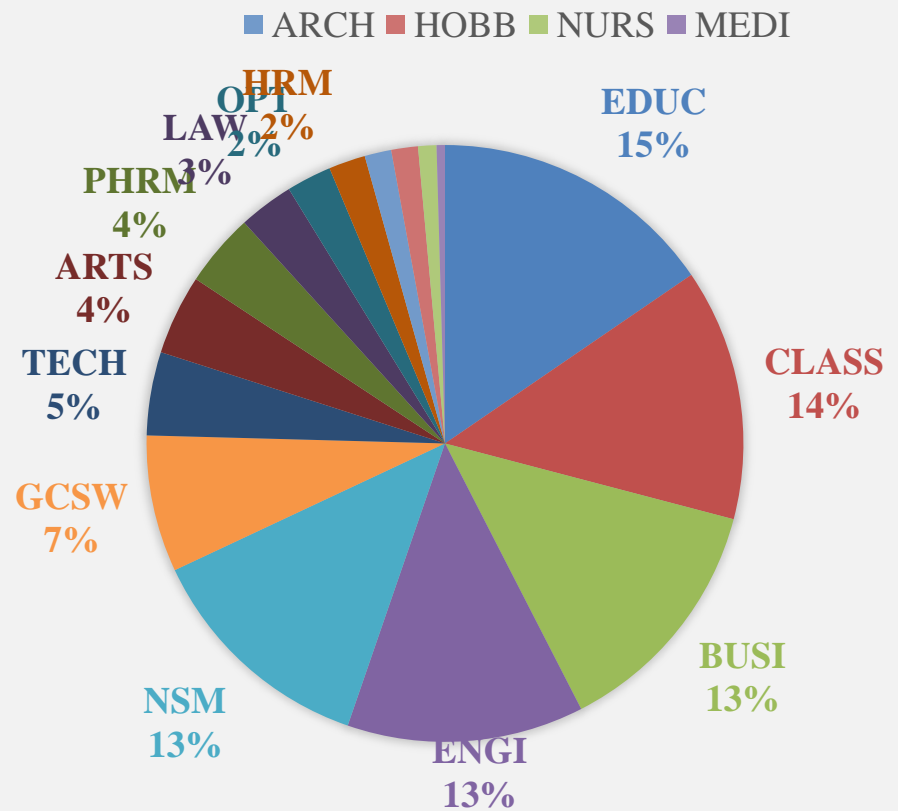
# PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS (N=1118)

## Respondents by Degree

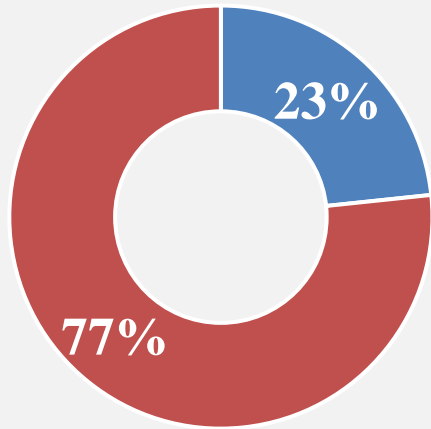


■ Masters ■ Doctoral ■ Prof ■ Other

## Respondents by College



# PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



■ International ■ Domestic

26% Hispanic/Latino

60% female

35% first generation college

Average age: 28.8 yrs

The background features a repeating pattern of overlapping triangles in various shades of red, creating a textured, crystalline effect. A semi-transparent grey rectangular box is centered horizontally and positioned in the lower-middle part of the frame. The text 'COVID-19 QUESTIONS' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters within this box. The overall design is clean and modern, with a strong color palette of reds and greys.

# COVID-19 QUESTIONS

# COVID-19- PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

## Did you.....

Not experience symptoms and did not get tested for COVID-19

70.9%

8% reported by Latino students.

Tested positive for COVID-19

4.9%

Experienced COVID-19 symptoms but tested negative

19.3%

Experience COVID-19 symptoms but were unable to get tested

5.0%

# COVID-19 - IMPACT ON OTHERS

	<b>% agree*</b>	<b>% agree Latino</b>
Someone I am close to has been hospitalized with COVID-19 symptoms.	29%	38%
Someone I am close to has died from COVID-19 complications.	15%	20%
A coworker/supervisor/peer of mine has experienced a COVID-19 infection.	55%	62%

Latino students report relatively higher impact.

\* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree



# COVID-19 – FINANCIAL/CAREER CONCERNS

	% agree*
I am worried about the <u>financial impact</u> of the COVID-19 pandemic on my ability to obtain funding for my graduate education (e.g. grants, teaching/research assistantships).	52%
Job opportunities in my field have become more scarce due to COVID-19.	58%
I am worried about finding a job once I graduate.	64%

International students reported the highest agreement with these items relative to other groups.

\* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree

# COVID-19 – FINANCIAL/CAREER CONCERNS

	% agree*
For me, the cost of attending graduate school has increased during the pandemic.	37%
My ability to pay for my graduate education has been compromised by factors related to the pandemic.	35%
I have to care for others who depend on me and have less time for my studies.	37%

\* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree

# COVID-19 – RESEARCH PROGRESS

	<b>% agree*</b>	
My research progress is hindered by factors related to COVID-19.	38%	56% doctoral
I expect to have to extend my time in graduate school due to COVID-19.	29%	

\* % provided here are sum of strongly agree and somewhat agree

Hugely isolating.

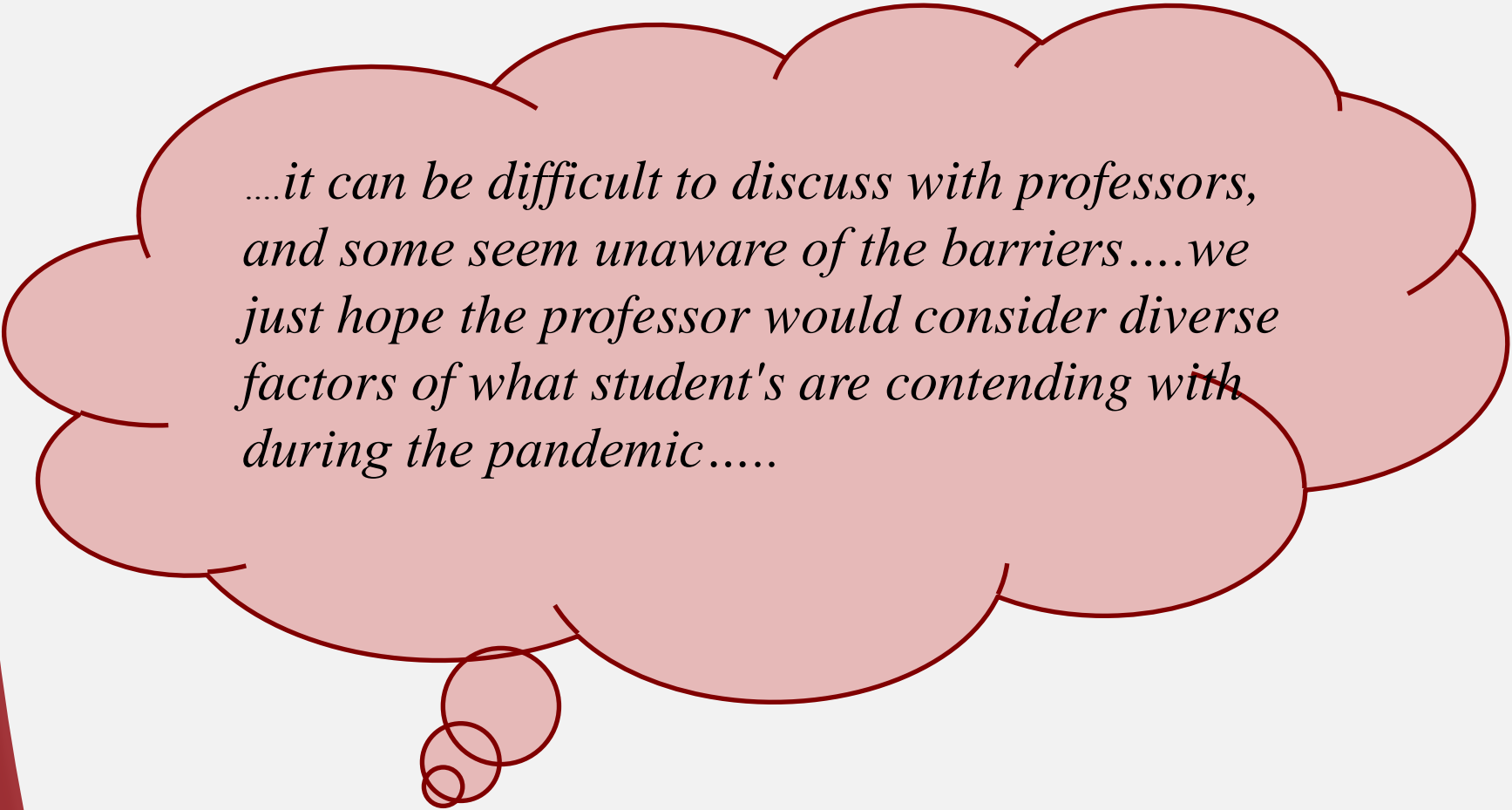
*Uncertainties are killing me.*

*SO. MUCH. STRESS.*

*Balancing work, home life, current events, and graduate work has been especially difficult this year.*

*The biggest factor affecting my work is loneliness. I miss being in an office and bouncing ideas off of colleagues.*

*Everyone around me is hurting and as a TA I felt the brunt of this from both the students I teach and the instructor I assist. :(Very hard semester for me!!!*



*...it can be difficult to discuss with professors,  
and some seem unaware of the barriers....we  
just hope the professor would consider diverse  
factors of what student's are contending with  
during the pandemic.....*

# COVID-19 – SUMMARY

- Graduate students have been highly impacted by Covid-19
  - 5% have tested positive
  - 15% have someone close to them who has died due to COVID-19
  - More than half of the students are worried about job opportunities and funding for their graduate education
  - Approximately ~30% expect that they will need to extend their time in graduate school due to the pandemic.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **Short term**

- Increased flexibility for students
  - Interim graduate grading policy
  - Deadlines extended (thesis, withdrawal)
  - Flexibility around limits on funding/GTF (considered on case-by-case basis)

## **Middle/Longer Term Initiatives**

- Continue work on mentoring, financial support, mental health
- Career exploration/planning resources for graduate students with University Career Services

EXCEL TRAINING

**March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**11-12pm**

**Additional information next week**