University Graduate Exercises

Friday, April 30, 2010
1:00 pm, Hill Auditorium

University Graduate Exercises is the commencement ceremony for all master’s and doctoral graduates and candidates who receive their degrees through the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. Held in Hill Auditorium, this program recognizes doctoral degree recipients individually and is formal in tone.

Detailed information concerning diplomas, commencement day instructions, academic attire and more is available at the U-M Graduate’s Guide to Commencement website at http://www.umich.edu/~gradinfo/exercises/.
How to Prepare for the Implementation of the Continuous Enrollment Policy

Assuming all conditions are met, the Continuous Enrollment and related policies will be in effect Fall 2010. Ph.D. students, in collaboration with their graduate chairs or program directors, can be taking steps now in preparation for the Fall 2010 term. This article is intended to help you understand how the policy may affect you.

Under the continuous enrollment policy, Ph.D. students will register for each fall and winter semester from matriculation to degree completion, unless on an approved leave of absence (http://www.rackham.umich.edu/doctoral_students/leave_of_absence/) or extramural study status (http://www.rackham.umich.edu/doctoral_students/extramural_study/). If you do not register for a term, you will be considered to have withdrawn and therefore discontinued from your Ph.D. program.

The University is committed to paying the cost of new registrations resulting from the policy change. These new costs will not be borne by students.

Questions about Funding
If I have to register because of the policy, who will pay my tuition?

If you have to register because of the policy, are making satisfactory academic progress, and your candidacy tuition is not covered in some other way, the tuition funding will be available from your program. You are not expected to pay for candidacy tuition yourself in terms where your registration is a result of the policy change. Please contact your graduate coordinator for more information.

How do I get a tuition fellowship?

If you believe that you will need a tuition fellowship, please contact your graduate chair or program director. As is the case now, faculty in the graduate programs work with individual students, and are in the best position to determine sources of support.

Questions about Preparing for Fall 2010
What should I be doing now?

To review your academic status for the coming year, you should talk with your primary faculty advisor, the graduate chair or graduate coordinator in your program. Those individuals can provide the best advice because they know your circumstances and progress in your program of study, as well as the resources that are available to support your choices.

Will I need to register in every term?

Yes, you will need to register in each Fall and Winter term when you are actively working on your degree. We recommend registering early, because students who register after the first day of the term are assessed a late registration fee.

Will I need to register in the Spring/Summer term?

Most Ph.D. students do not register in the Spring/Summer terms now, and that remains true in the future. Just like now, you will need to register in the Spring/Summer terms if you are taking a course, taking preliminary or other exams, or defending your dissertation in the Spring/Summer terms.

Questions about Other Options

When am I eligible for a leave of absence?

Ph.D. students are eligible to apply for a leave of absence at any time in their graduate career, during a Fall or Winter term. You don’t need a leave in the Spring/Summer term since you do not need to register, unless you are doing a specific activity that requires Spring/Summer registration.

When should I consider a leave of absence?

There are 4 types of leaves of absence: medical reasons, family necessity/dependent care, military service and personal reasons. If approved, the leave of absence substitutes for your registration requirement at U-M.

What if I am not sure if I will need a leave of absence?

Whenever possible, students are encouraged to register. You should talk with your graduate chair or program director to consider alternatives to a leave of absence at U-M.

What if I would like to take a course at another institution?

Students who are registered for a course or program of study at another institution and are assessed tuition at that institution may be eligible for extramural study status. If the course is relevant to your Ph.D. work and is 7 weeks or longer and falls within a fall or winter semester,
you may apply for extramural study status. If approved, the registration at the other institution substitutes for your registration requirement at U-M.

What if I do not register?

If you do not register, we will contact you via messages sent to your University e-mail account. If you remain unregistered during the entire term, you will be considered to have withdrawn, and therefore will be discontinued from your Ph.D. program.

Contact

Whom do I contact if I have questions?

For more information about a leave of absence, please contact your program’s graduate coordinator or Natalie Bartolacci (nplosky@umich.edu) at Rackham.

For more information about extramural study status, please contact your graduate coordinator or Donna Huprich (dhuprich@umich.edu) at Rackham.

For questions about the Continuous Enrollment policy or tuition support, please ask your graduate coordinator or Shelly Martinez (shellyah@umich.edu) at Rackham.

If you have a dispute or disagreement related to the Continuous Enrollment policy, please contact your graduate chair, graduate coordinator, or Darlene Ray-Johnson (rayj@umich.edu) at Rackham.

For questions and assistance with dispute resolution, contact Darlene Ray-Johnson (rayj@umich.edu or 615-3682) at Rackham.

Preparing for Overseas Research

Graduate students planning international research or internships over the summer may download a pre-departure checklist that includes reminders about visas and other important documents, Institutional Research Board approvals, immunizations, regulations for taking research equipment and materials out of the country, travel health and safety, accessing funds from abroad, and other important practical planning steps: http://www.umich.edu/~itoc/planning.html. The checklist includes instructions on how to contact the University while overseas in the event of a serious emergency. A wallet-sized card, in a fillable PDF format, can be downloaded for students to complete with emergency information to carry while abroad.

All students going abroad are encouraged to register for U-M’s low-cost travel abroad health insurance, available through HTH Worldwide. Insurance can be purchased at http://www.hthstudents.com by clicking on the “Buy Health Insurance” link in the upper left corner of the home page and selecting “University of Michigan” under the Group Participants section.

Students should also register travel itinerary and overseas emergency contact information with the online ITOC travel registry: http://www.umich.edu/~itoc/. The registry has been invaluable in helping the University respond to students affected by emergencies such as the Chilean earthquake, the London subway bombings, the Israel-Lebanon conflict, as well as health-related and other personal situations. This allows administrators to locate and facilitate communications with students that may need support.

University policy requires that students get permission to travel for research or study to a country where a State Department travel warning is in effect. These include Afghanistan; Algeria; Burundi; Central African Repub-
lic; Chad; Colombia; Cote d’Ivoire; Democratic Republic of the Congo; Eritrea; Georgia; Guinea; Haiti; Iran; Iraq; Israel, the West Bank and Gaza; Kenya; Lebanon; Mali; Mauritania; Mexico; Nepal; Nigeria; Pakistan; Philippines; Saudi Arabia; Somalia; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Uzbekistan; and Yemen. Faculty advisors are required to review the plans of students traveling to these destinations, and students must provide a waiver to ITOC indicating that they are informed of the potential risk. Permission may be denied for destinations that are deemed excessively hazardous. Information about the policy and waivers is available at http://www.umich.edu/~itoc/guidelines.html.

Rackham Welcomes Study Groups

Graduate students may now reserve the Rackham 2nd floor West Study Hall South Alcove for study group meetings for the current semester, at least three days in advance.

The alcove seats 18 people at a boardroom style table and there is no cost to Rackham graduate student study groups. Reservations can be made online at http://ems.rackham.umich.edu/virtualems/.

Follow the directions under “Graduate Study Groups.” Student organizations can book event rooms online at the above link as well. Follow the directions under “University Departments and Student Organizations.”

Rackham I-Connect Program Recruiting Volunteers for 2010-11

You probably still remember your first year at the University of Michigan -- the wide array of questions you had, the challenges you faced adjusting to a new environment, and the people who made an impact on you. Now you can make a difference by providing assistance to new international graduate students.

The Rackham I-Connect Program, an initiative to assist newly admitted international graduate students in their first year at the University of Michigan, is looking for volunteers. I-Connect volunteers are international and domestic graduate students from all disciplines across the University who provide a network of support for new international graduate students as they adjust to a new social and cultural environment. By participating in the I-Connect program, you not only act as a positive ambassador welcoming newcomers to the University of Michigan, you also connect with other scholars from around the world and participate in valuable intercultural networking and exchange.

Volunteers provide information and support to new students over the summer, prior to new students’ arrival, and they continue to meet regularly for social activities throughout the academic year. The deadline for volunteer applications is April 20, 2010, and the first Volunteer Orientation Dinner will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. For more information about the I-Connect program, and to apply online, please visit http://www.rackham.umich.edu/student_life/advice_support/iconnect/.

Inquiries about the program can also be sent to Kim Greenwell at kgreenwe@umich.edu.

ENRICHMENT

Negotiations Seminar for Graduate Students

Tuesday, April 06, 2010

8:30 am – 12:00 pm, West Conference Room, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Dr. Barbara Butterfield and Dr. Jane Tucker present a series of seminars for female faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students in the sciences and engineering. These seminars address the varying challenges in negotiation scenarios that academic women face at the advanced leadership, senior faculty, junior faculty, and post-doctoral levels. Course content includes key concepts of negotiation or interest based solution finding.

This seminar is designed to introduce mutual interest based negotiations or solution finding to people relatively new in their academic careers. The content encourages developing understanding of the parties’ interests, developing alternatives that enhance the possibility of reaching agreement and packaging of the possibilities. Participants will learn to develop a BATNA or the “best alternative to a negotiated agreement.”

Participants will receive a list of negotiable items important to academic appointment offers as well as a negotiations planning worksheet. In addition, resources
for understanding difficult conversations and tactics typical to negotiations will be provided.

This seminar is co-sponsored by the Rackham Graduate School and the ADVANCE Program at the University of Michigan.

Pre-registration is required at https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.

EVENTS

Grad Parents Trip to Domino’s Petting Farm

Saturday, April 10, 2010

10:30 am – 12:45 pm, 24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Pack up the family and join us for a fun-filled day at Domino’s Petting Farm featuring goats, donkeys, and rabbits. There are 15 acres of farm to roam around and pet animals. The event is open only to graduate parents and their children. Bring your student ID and check in as a part of the Grad Parent Group. This will be our last event for the academic year. A light lunch of pizza and soft drinks will be served, first-come, first-served from 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm.

Pre-registration is required at https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.

Study Break Breakfast

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

9:00 am - 11:00 am, 4th floor, Rackham Building

Join us for breakfast at Rackham to celebrate the end of classes and to get your studying started right. This is also a great opportunity to relax with friends and socialize with people from other programs.

Arrive early to get the best selection of breakfast items!

While you are here, stay and use our historic Study Halls, complete with wireless connectivity and vending. The study halls are open Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm.

Pre-registration is required at https://www.rackham.umich.edu/Events/wssel.php.