TIPS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

1. THE ISSUES WE ARE FACING

Students in our program are currently facing, and will continue to face, an array of issues as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis, with broad **financial, logistical, health, and mental health implications.**

1. Students still taking **coursework** may not have the resources they need to complete the required work for their spring courses, e.g., lack of adequate technology, lack of good internet access at home, lack of library access, and lack of access to laboratories for lab-based classes.
2. Students studying, preparing bibliographies, and writing dissertation proposals for their **First and Second Exams** may struggle to move forward due to lack of adequate technology, good internet access at home, and library access.
3. Students who rely on **Graduate Center facilities** to work effectively may be struggling to be productive in shared living conditions, for many reasons.
4. Students' caregiving burdens may have increased significantly, and students with children may be responsible for homeschooling.
5. Students who are **teaching** at CUNY colleges have been forced to spend substantial extra time re-vamping their courses into online formats with no financial compensation, and some were required to work during spring break.
6. Students who are **developing dissertation projects** are unable to visit field sites and labs for reconnaissance visits and preliminary data collection.
7. Students at the **dissertation research** stage are unable to begin or continue fieldwork, visit archives, or do laboratory research and have thus incurred indefinite delays in their graduate career.

8. **Conference cancellations** have prevented students from disseminating their research and making connections necessary to move forward in their careers
9. Students may be suffering **direct effects of COVID-19** in that they may have sick friends or family members, they may be sick themselves, they may have friends or family members who are first responders or healthcare workers, or they may have suffered losses of close friends and family members

2. GUIDELINES FOR MOVING FORWARD

Here are a few basic steps we might consider taking together as we head towards the end of the semester:

1. **Advisement -** We encourage regular check-ins between advisors and advisees. This could be via phone, email, Zoom, or whatever correspondence method is preferred. It is important to provide a space for students and faculty to address professional and personal concerns, and this provides an opportunity as well to direct students to resources and services that may be needed. The Provost's Office has asked for all advisors to meet with their advisees at least once this semester before the end of May to discuss short- and medium-term plans.
2. **Coursework and Grading -** Many members of the program do not view the CUNY pass/fail option as a useful or sufficient form of grade protection under the circumstances. Accordingly, faculty have already made significant adjustments to their syllabi and have changed assignments in ways that will enable students to succeed in their classes despite the circumstances. Faculty are encouraged to continue to readjust their syllabus as needed, work closely with students to address specific needs or challenges as they arise, and make any new grade expectations clear so that students know where they stand as they head to the end of the semester. For their part, students should do their best to prepare for class, participate, and complete assignments. They should recognize the challenges faculty face in moving courses to virtual formats. And they should proactively bring challenges and needs to the attention of their instructors. We ask students to remember that course grades are now, as they have always been in our program, less important than faculty-guided research and preparation involving in-depth and substantive engagement with the faculty and with each other.

3. **Research -** Faculty and students alike may have questions about how to move forward in their research, how to fund it, or even how their work matters in a moment of such extreme uncertainty. It may still be too soon for students to rethink long-term research plans. But it is important to focus now on what you *do* have access to, what you already have done, and what you might still be able to do under the current circumstances. We encourage advisors and advisees to address these questions together. Students might consider developing a short-term plan or establishing a temporary routine to help them to feel empowered in the face of all of this uncertainty.

4. **Program Office/Administration –** The office staff appreciates your patience and understanding under the circumstances. Please continue to contact us well in advance of any deadlines, so that we will have sufficient time to handle your requests and process virtual "paperwork." To help to reduce email traffic, please take the time to read all announcements from the GC administration (Provost's Office, Registrar, the Office of Student Affairs, etc.). Since we are communicating almost exclusively by email, students and faculty are encouraged to communicate with the office using their CUNY email addresses wherever possible, especially if it involves anything that will be forwarded elsewhere as documentation in lieu of signatures on forms. This is especially important for things like grade changes, exam or defense results, advisor approvals, and any official student request.

3. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Best Practices During the Epidemic

- This piece emphasizes the [Four Core Priorities for Trauma-Informed Distance Learning](#): predictability, flexibility, connection, and empowerment.
- Esra Ozyurek's "[Writing in times of crisis](#)" considers the role of academics during the lockdown, emphasizing the forms of inequality, injustice, violence, and human rights that are at stake during the epidemic and the ways that coronavirus is already shaped by existing power relations and inequalities.

- Faculty and students may be interested in [Eve Ewing](#) and [Lauren Duquette-Rury](#)'s suggestions for rethinking long-term research plans, especially in situations where students do not have access to all the texts/resources they need.
- The American Philosophical Association offers a set of helpful guidelines for dealing with research, financial, and professionalization issues as faculty support grad students during COVID. The link is here: https://blog.apaonline.org/2020/04/06/supporting-grad-students-during-covid-19/.
- If it helps to read anthropology-centered reflections on teaching and doing fieldwork during the pandemic, grad students and faculty have written useful pieces here: [Teaching Right Now](#) and [From the Field](#).
- The American Anthropological Association is offering COVID-19 Emergency Grants. Applications are due on May 10: https://americananthro.submittable.com/submit/8ff3a194-b99f-450e-932a-f050deac10bb/aaa-covid-19-emergency-grants.

GC Coronavirus Update

- https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/Coronavirus-Guidance-and-Updates?utm_source=gcsite&utm_medium=news&utm_campaign=hpfeature

Writing Resources

- **Early Research Initiative** - new student fellowship to support research during the January 2021 intersession: Over the summer of 2020, the GC's Early Research Initiative will announce a new student research fellowship competition for research to be conducted during the January 2021 intersession. If necessary, the fellowship will provide students with an opportunity to rethink/retool their research in light of changes related to Covid19.

- **GC Writing Center**
  - Homepage: https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
  - Quick link to schedule appointments: https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/book-an-appointment/
  - Online resources and events: https://gcwritingcenter.commons.gc.cuny.edu/online-programming/
  - The Writing Center continues to offer individual writing consultations and remote companionable writing sessions. Make an appointment today!

Financial Resources

- GC Student Emergency Grants: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Fellowships-and-Financial-Aid/Student-Emergency-Grants

Teaching Resources

- Considerations for Instructional Continuity (TLC)
- Request a Tablet for Distance Learning
- CUNY Continuity Slack [cuny-co.slack.com] for people teaching online (support, questions, suggestions for resources and tools, etc)
- Remote teaching resources [docs.google.com] (started by Jacque Wernimont) for access or to share links, use this form [docs.google.com]
- Accessible Teaching in the Time of COVID [mapping-access.com]
- Bringing Your Course Online [teachingresources.hcommons.org] (Humanities Commons)

- [Remote Academia 2020 [t.co],](#) a Slack workspace for the academic community to collaborate on solutions and techniques for remote learning in response to COVID-19. Anyone with an .edu email can join. They also have a reading list [docs.google.com]
- [How to Keep the Crashers Out of Your Zoom Event [blog.zoom.us]](#)
- GC IT - Take Advantage of Webex Services for Remote Teaching and Meeting: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=54385]
- GC Teaching and Learning Center Resources
  - TLC Website: http://cuny.is/teaching
  - TLC Resources on Instructional Continuity: https://continuity.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
  - Teach@CUNY Handbook: https://cuny.is/tcuny-handbook
  - CUNY Continuity Slack Team: https://cuny-co.slack.com/ (sign in with CUNY email account)

Health Resources

- GC Health and Wellness : https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Student-Life/Health-Wellness
- Coronavirus Sanity Guide [tenpercent.com]
- Entertainment/Leisure/Self-care Resources [docs.google.com]
- GC Wellness Center Teleconferencing and Phone Student Counseling Services: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Student-Life/Health-Wellness/Student-Counseling-Services

Research

- Early Research Initiative - new student fellowship to support research during the January 2021 intersession:

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- Check out the Digital Archive Research Collective: https://digitalfellows.commons.gc.cuny.edu/2020/02/27/check-out-the-digital-archive-research-collectives-darc-wiki/
- Archival Research - Research Guides at CUNY Graduate Center's Mina Rees Library. See link below on the many archival and other collections available to you online through the Mina Rees library and the other institutions with which the GC partners: https://libguides.gc.cuny.edu/archivalresearch
- Graduate Center Mina Rees Library Offers Only Remote Services Until Further Notice: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/All-News/Detail?id=54392
- GC Quantitative Research Consulting Center
  - Homepage: https://qrcc.commons.gc.cuny.edu/
  - Quick link to schedule appointments: https://qrcc.commons.gc.cuny.edu/appointments/
- GC Career Planning & Professional Development Office
  - Students can find COVID and other related resources on our homepage: cuny.is/careerplan
  - Quick link to schedule online appointments: https://careerplan.commons.gc.cuny.edu/services/appointments
  - Quick link to ask a question: https://careerplan.commons.gc.cuny.edu/about/contact/ask-a-career-adviser
  - Quick link to our webinar archive: https://careerplan.commons.gc.cuny.edu/services/webinars

GC General Administrative Resources

- Contact list for various GC administrative offices: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Departmental-Contact-List
- Details about new credit/no credit policy: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/News/Student-News/Detail?id=54603

- PSC-CUNY Updates page: https://www.psc-cuny.org/covid-19
- The Registrar's Office: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Registrar has updated info and useful forms which can be submitted electronically.
- Electronic transcript requests:https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/Registrar/Transcript-Requests

International Students

- International student info: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Current-Students/International-Students

Miscellaneous

- Life In The Time Of Coronavirus [docs.google.com]
- From Crisis to Community [insidehighered.com]
- NYC United Against Coronavirus - Resources and Information [docs.google.com]
- Coronavirus Resource Kit [docs.google.com]
- FI Team Recipes [docs.google.com]
- How to Keep the Crashers Out of Your Zoom Event [blog.zoom.us]
- COVID-19: Advancing Rights and Justice During a Pandemic [law.columbia.edu]
- Request a Tablet from the GC for Distance Learning: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Administrative-Services/Information-Technology/IT-Alerts-Announcements/Detail?id=54624

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