

From: Michael Grotewiel <michael.grotewiel@vcuhealth.org>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:01 PM
To: Mary Rosenthal <Mary.Rosenthal@vcuhealth.org>
Subject: COVID-19: SOM Graduate Training Guidance

Dear SOM Chairs, Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Course Directors and Graduate Advisors,

Thank you for your support of educating our graduate students, continuing to deliver outstanding classroom training, and maintaining research productivity during the evolving COVID-19 situation. Here, I emphasize several key points from [Dr. Buckley's message yesterday](#) as they relate to SOM graduate students and courses:

- SOM graduate courses subject to spring break March 9-13 will resume on March 16 as originally scheduled.
- All SOM graduate lecture-based courses need to migrate to on-line formats by no later than March 23, however sooner is preferred.
- Key resources available to SOM course directors and instructors include the VCU "[Keep on Teaching](#)" page, the [SOM Faculty Affairs office](#), and the [Graduate Education Office](#).
- SOM graduate students performing research should continue work in their labs or other research settings and remain in communication with their research supervisors/advisors. Importantly, graduate students participating in research and their research advisors are expected to vigorously explore options for students to work remotely—to the greatest extent possible—without majorly disrupting research programs.
- Ultimately, each of us have to assess our own level of perceived risk and concern and make our decisions accordingly. If graduate students consider their training activities as non-essential and/or overly risky at this time, then they can make a decision accordingly and we will support those decisions.
- SOM graduate advisors are expected to be as flexible as possible regarding graduate student and faculty member participation, responsibilities and expectations related to graduate training if individuals are impacted by COVID-19.
- Please see the websites for [VCU](#), the [VCU Health System](#) and the [CDC](#) for more information about COVID-19.

Please feel free to distribute this message as you think helpful. Students will be receiving a complementary message from me today. Many thanks on behalf of SOM for all of your efforts during this challenging time.

Sincerely yours,
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