

RE: COVID-19: thank you to SOM graduate students

From: Michael Grotewiel

Sent: Friday, April 3, 2020 8:28 AM

To: Michael Grotewiel <michael.grotewiel@vcuhealth.org>

Subject: COVID-19: thank you to SOM graduate students

Dear SOM Graduate Students,

I am writing to thank you for all of your hard work, resiliency, flexibility and patience during this unprecedented time. As I am sure you recognize, all members of the VCU community (students, faculty members, administrators and staff) have been asked to adapt very quickly to COVID-19. First and foremost, I genuinely appreciate all you have done to help us as a School adjust on such a remarkable scale.

Among the changes you experienced, moving to remote delivery of graduate courses was a major one. Course directors had to make changes to exams and other course components in some cases while striving to maintain academic rigor. Each graduate course, each graduate program and each School or College has unique trainees and needs. Naturally, therefore, it is possible that that changes in one course, program or School might not be reflected in or applicable to other courses, programs or Schools. I thank you for your assistance with this Herculean task.

Please know that your School of Medicine graduate course directors, graduate program directors, and department chairs are in regular contact with multiple offices including mine as we move forward with our graduate programs and courses. Given the magnitude and the abruptness of the changes the University asked us to implement (all of which were appropriate), and the highly dynamic nature of the situation, I believe that School of Medicine graduate course directors have done extremely well. I emphasize that we—all of us—are 100% committed to continue delivering excellent graduate training with appropriate academic rigor and further that we are committed to the success of every graduate student. As part of those commitments, the School of Medicine is developing and will soon distribute more pointed guidance that will assist graduate students students.

Please continue to work through your graduate course directors and program directors if concerns arise, and please contact me as needed. We are all here to help. Thank you again for the flexibility and resiliency that you have demonstrated during this very challenging time.

Sincerely,

Mike Grotewiel, Ph.D.
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School of Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University