

TIMELY TOPICS

Fall 2024 Faculty & Administrative Tracks



TIMELY TOPICS

Timely Topics is a series of opportunities to engage with subject matter experts on topics relevant to graduate education. Every session is open to all who wish to attend, however, The Graduate School highlights three tracks (student, faculty, and administrative) to help registrants identify which sessions may be most relevant to their interests. This flyer includes sessions designed for faculty and for staff and faculty who hold an administrative role. Sessions for the student track are listed on the [Timely Topics](#) webpage, along with slides, recordings, and resources from past sessions.

REGISTRATION

All sessions are virtual. To register for any of this semester's Timely Topics sessions, click the registration link below.

[REGISTRATION](#)

AT A GLANCE

FACULTY TRACK

- Dialogue with the Dean* (September 12)
- Racial Microaggressions and the Cumulative and Deleterious Effects on Historically Excluded and Racially Oppressed Faculty, Staff, and Students* (September 19)
- New Graduate School Fellowships Process for Fall 2025 Admissions Cycle* (September 26)
- "How Are You Doing?"...And Other Scary Questions, Continued (October 10)
- Graduate Assistants: What Supervisors Need to Know* (October 24)
- Graduate Admissions: Reading and Reviewing Applications in the Slate Reader (October 30)
- Using Pronouns: Actualizing Inclusivity* (November 14)

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

- Dialogue with the Dean* (September 12)
- Racial Microaggressions and the Cumulative and Deleterious Effects on Historically Excluded and Racially Oppressed Faculty, Staff, and Students* (September 19)
- Graduate Admissions: Program Application Processing in Slate and Admissions Cycle Kick Off (September 26)
- New Graduate School Fellowships Process for Fall 2025 Admissions Cycle* (September 26)
- Graduate Assistants: What Supervisors Need to Know* (October 24)
- Using Pronouns: Actualizing Inclusivity* (November 14)
- Recruitment: GradSlate CRM Functionality (December 5)

CONTACT

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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**session appears on multiple tracks*

UConn
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DIALOGUE WITH THE DEAN

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

New Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School, Leslie Shor, invites faculty and staff to engage in a conversation. Dean Shor will share her vision for graduate education at UConn and welcomes input from all on the challenges and issues facing their graduate students and programs as we move forward together.

DATE: Thursday, September 12, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Leslie Shor, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School

RACIAL MICROAGGRESSIONS AND THE CUMALTIVE AND DELETERIOUS EFFECTS ON HISTORICALLY EXCLUDED AND RACIALLY OPPRESSED FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

What are racial microaggressions; how do we best understand how racial microaggressions harm historically excluded and racially oppressed faculty, staff, and students; and what are some ways we can address racial microaggressions on campus? We take a critical approach in answering these questions, looking at both the individual as well as structural lens to get a clearer picture of life at historically white colleges and universities. Our aim is one of growth, inclusion, and change for the better.

DATE: Thursday, September 19, 2024

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

FACILITATORS:

David G. Embrick, Associate Professor in Sociology and Africana Studies & Office of Diversity and Inclusion Affiliate

Stephany Santos, Assistant Professor in Residence, Biomedical Engineering & Office of Diversity and Inclusion Affiliate





GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESSING IN SLATE AND ADMISSIONS CYCLE KICK OFF!

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

Join us for a deep dive into application requirements as part of the graduate admissions process. This session will go over updates, the process The Graduate School uses before programs see their applications (Initial Grad Audit bin), and what programs should be looking for in their program review process (Program Audit bin). This will include the difference in accessing graduate admissions requirements versus program requirements, how to upload recommendations, and checking materials on the checklist. Please bring your questions, as we will be holding time at the end for Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2024

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Holly Brunette, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Meg Buckley, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

Shirley Fiasconaro, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Katie O'Keefe, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Lisa Pane, Director of CRM & Data Management, The Graduate School

Sarah Shore, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

Paula Steele, Assistant Director of CRM & Data Management, The Graduate School

NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS PROCESS FOR FALL 2025 ADMISSIONS CYCLE

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

This session will introduce the redesigned process for The Graduate School's Jorgensen, Harriott, and Crandall Fellowships, discuss how the new approach will impact departments' nomination processes, and outline the new two-part date system for the doctoral fellowship. This will be followed by a Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, September 26, 2024

TIME: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Stuart Duncan, Director of Programming and Diversity Recruitment, The Graduate School





“HOW ARE YOU DOING?”...AND OTHER SCARY QUESTIONS, CONTINUED

FACULTY TRACK

You asked your advisee how they are doing...now what? This discussion-based Timely Topic will continue to explore frequently asked grad faculty questions pertaining to student welfare. Need to help students access resources? Wondering how you can balance compassion for a student’s struggles and still hold them accountable for being productive? This discussion will address these issues and leave plenty of time for attendees to ask questions. If the goal is a healthy and supportive academic/work environment, facilitators will provide guidance on how to continue asking “scary questions”. Part 1 of this session, “How Are You Doing?’...And Other Scary Questions”, was held in Spring 2024. Part 2 expands on the theme of supporting grads who may be struggling. Prior attendance is not required but materials from the Spring 2024 session are [available for review](#) if you wish.

DATE: Thursday, October 10, 2024

TIME: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

FACILITATORS:

Kimberly Curry, Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Support, The Graduate School

GRADUATE ASSISTANTS: WHAT SUPERVISORS NEED TO KNOW

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

This session will discuss the intersection of the employee role and the academic role for graduate students appointed as GAs that are a part of the Graduate Employee Union; important items GA supervisors should be aware of; approaches to address employee performance and misconduct; and ways to connect a struggling GA with assistance and support. For those supervising RAs, we will also discuss the differences between employment and academic effort and how both detailed Supplemental Description of Duties forms and annual academic reviews can help delineate RA duties from the grad’s own research.

DATE: Thursday, October 24, 2024

TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

FACILITATORS:

Alison Cutler, Labor Relations Associate, Labor and Employment Attorney, Office of Faculty & Staff Labor Relations

Leslie Shor, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School





GRADUATE ADMISSIONS: READING AND REVIEWING APPLICATIONS IN THE SLATE READER

FACULTY TRACK

During this training, we will cover updates and how to review applications in the Slate reader. This presentation will include best practices for application review, including how to fill out reader review forms, queue applications to others, and enter final program admission decisions. We will discuss timelines for application review and official admission decisions, along with why it is important that all applications have program admission decisions entered by the end of the admission cycle. Please bring your questions as we will be holding time at the end for Q&A.

DATE: Thursday, October 31, 2024

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Holly Brunette, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Meg Buckley, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

Shirley Fiasconaro, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Katie O’Keefe, Graduate Admissions Specialist, The Graduate School

Lisa Pane, Director of CRM & Data Management, The Graduate School

Sarah Shore, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School



USING PRONOUNS: ACTUALIZING INCLUSIVITY

FACULTY TRACK

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

The Rainbow Center (RC) will present the current best practices to support LGBTQIA+ students in higher education settings. Topics discussed include SOGI(E) definitions, pronoun usage, chosen names and supporting research. The RC will also give an overview of current Gender Inclusive Initiatives. Participants will have a chance to engage in discussion and ask questions. The Graduate School will share information on pronoun visibility in GradSlate, how to use this information in relation to admissions and recruitment, and best practices for admission/welcome letters.

DATE: Thursday, November 14, 2024

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

FACILITATORS:

Kesley O’Neil, Director, Rainbow Center

Ian Shick, Assistant Director, Rainbow Center

Meg Buckley, Director of Graduate Admissions, The Graduate School

Lisa Pane, Director of CRM & Data Management, The Graduate School





RECRUITMENT: GRADSLATE CRM FUNCTIONALITY

ADMINISTRATIVE TRACK

The GradSlate system contains tools which can help your graduate recruitment and admissions efforts beyond reading and processing applications. Join this session to get an overview of Slate's CRM (customer relationship management) tools which can help you collect information, communicate, and facilitate connection with potential inquiries and applicants through email campaigns, event registration, and inquiry forms, among other tools.

DATE: Thursday, December 5, 2024

TIME: 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Paula Steele, Assistant Director of CRM & Data Management, The Graduate School

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REGISTRATION

