

**From:** Jennifer Roberts  
**To:** Graduate Students  
**Subject:** Update: Graduate Education and COVID-19

Dear Graduate Students,

We are in the final stretch of the semester and your resilience over the past six weeks has been astonishing. Despite significant hardships, you all are doing your best in your research, your studies, as instructors, and as a critical source of support for undergraduate students and graduate peers.

As you continue to receive large volumes of information related to KU's move to online operations, it may be difficult to determine what information specifically applies to you as graduate students. In all of my communication, I aim to distill this information for you. However, please continue to visit [graduate.ku.edu](https://graduate.ku.edu), where we have created a COVID-19 resource portal specific to the graduate community. We also encourage you to contact us at [graduate@ku.edu](mailto:graduate@ku.edu) with any questions or concerns.

### **Safety and Wellness**

The COVID-19 crisis may be impacting your safety or wellness.

- If you or someone you know is unsafe at home, is experiencing an emotional or mental crisis, or is being sexually harassed, bullied, or threatened, please use these [resources](#) to receive immediate assistance.
- CAPS ([caps.ku.edu](https://caps.ku.edu)) is providing mental health and wellness resources to graduate students using telehealth appointments and remote webinars whether you are in Kansas or elsewhere. Please take advantage of KU's wellness resources, explore the additional wellness resources listed on the [Graduate Studies website](#), and/or seek help from private practitioners.
- As a result of the pandemic, some students may be at risk of food insecurity. Visit KU's Campus Cupboard partner [Just Food](#) to learn about receiving food assistance.

### **CARES and Emergency Funding**

If you have endured financial hardship as a result of COVID-19, please apply for aid using this [application form](#). You do not need to file a FAFSA in order to be eligible for funding. This form can be used by *all graduate students* to access aid. KU has secured funding for international graduate students and graduate students in online-only programs because we know that this crisis is impacting *all* students. If you have financial need that is not directly related to COVID-19, you can still apply for aid through the [Graduate Student Emergency Fund](#).

## **Technology and Computing Needs**

If you are encountering new or continuing technology barriers, please contact [itcsc@ku.edu](mailto:itcsc@ku.edu). They can help you get the equipment and connections you need to accomplish your work, learning, and research activities.

Myself and the entire team in the Office of Graduate Studies are here to help connect you to the resources you may need, now and in the future, as we together navigate this global pandemic. Across the KU community, faculty and staff are working hard to ensure your health, happiness, and success. Please never hesitate to reach out to your mentors, your director of graduate studies, your department chair, and your peers. In this time of physical distancing, staying socially connected has never been more important. The KU community cares about you, appreciates you, and is here for you, always.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Roberts

*she / her / hers*

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