

Subject: A Message from Dean Quick at the Conclusion of the Spring Term



19 May 2020

Dear Graduate Students,

Now that the spring term has come to a close, I wanted to commend you on the resiliency you have shown in transitioning so admirably to learning online and performing your teaching, research, and other roles remotely while SMU is running under reduced operations due to COVID-19. Graduate students play a vital part in the life of the University, and I want you to know that your contributions are appreciated. I especially want to recognize those of you who graduated this month. It is a tremendous accomplishment to complete your graduate degree under these challenging circumstances, and I greatly regret that we have to delay celebrating your accomplishment together at Commencement. In the meantime, I encourage you to share your memories on [Stories from the Hilltop](#) (you should have received an email the week of Monday, May 4, containing a single-use link to record your message).

You will be receiving more information from SMU and from my office over the summer about how SMU will be ensuring a healthy opening for our students in the fall. You will also be kept up to date about the reopening of the campus spaces where you work and perform research and the safety precautions that will be in place in those spaces. I want to assure you, though, as the summer begins, that our office and the many other offices across the university are working together to provide you with the assistance you need to stay safe and to be successful in your studies. I encourage you to check the University's [Coronavirus site](#), and in particular the [student FAQ](#), regularly. There you will find the latest information about the University's response to the spread of Coronavirus. I also wanted to share some specific information with you about resources that will continue to be available to continuing graduate students over the summer:

SMU Libraries: Library facilities are currently closed to walk-in traffic, but are open online to assist you. Librarians are committed to help you locate the information needed to continue your research activities. To access research material, submit requests using the [Interlibrary Loan](#) form. For help identifying specific research resources, use the [Ask Us](#) service for immediate answers. You may also contact your [subject librarian](#) to schedule a one-on-one virtual consultation. SMU Libraries plan to re-open July 6 and are working to provide curbside delivery for the month of June. Details of curbside delivery are currently being planned. Please check the SMU Libraries [COVID-19 Response](#) page for updates to these services, building hours, library book due dates, and more.

Graduate Writing Center: Many graduate students have faced delays in their academic writing projects due to COVID-19. For this reason, consultants in the Graduate Writing Center will be continuing to meet with students via Zoom or Skype during the summer term (June 1-August 4). We encourage you to schedule an appointment on the [Graduate Writing Center website](#).

SMU Bookstore: The bookstore has extended the textbook rental return date to June 15. They are open 10:00AM-3:00PM, Monday through Friday so students can return their rentals in store. They

require all persons in the building to wear a mask and practice social distancing. Students may ship rental textbooks back. There is a link on the SMU Bookstore website where students can print multiple shipping labels: <https://smu.bncollege.com/shop/smu/page/rental-book-return>. Students also have until June 15 to do a buyout to purchase their rental(s) if they would like. Emails were sent to the email address used when renting the textbook with a link to complete the buyout. The bookstore has extended the charge date so students will not be charged for unreturned rentals until August 26. The bookstore buys back textbooks year round. Students may come into the store Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to sell back their books (please bring your student ID card). Students may purchase textbooks for May, Summer and Fall semesters in store or on the bookstore website. The bookstore is offering free ground shipping or they can choose in store pick up. www.smu.bncollege.com

Counseling Services: [SMU's Counseling Services](#) is still providing mental health service by the Zoom platform or phone to current clients over the next several weeks. Crisis services will be available 24/7 by calling 214-768-2277 and selecting the "speaking with a crisis counselor option" for assistance. Additional assistance with referrals or other services can be obtained by calling the number listed above and selecting the option to speak with the clinical case manager.

Dr. Bob Smith Health Center: The [Dr. Bob Smith Health Center](#) is open, but staff are scheduling all appointments by phone (214-768-2141). The Health Center is available Monday – Friday 9:30A – 4:00P.

Student Emergency Fund: The Student Emergency Fund will be continuing to provide support to continuing students in need over the summer. Students experiencing financial hardship or food insecurity may request support from the Student Emergency Fund. To initiate the application process, please complete a [Caring Community Connections form](#) for yourself and select "economic hardship" at the very bottom. An application for support from the Student Emergency Fund will then be sent to you. Your application will be reviewed and a decision made on support that can be provided in 3-5 business days. Please note that these funds are limited. We are striving to meet urgent needs as best we can, but we will not be able to fulfill all requests or to provide the level of support requested in all cases.

If you have questions, or if we can assist you in any way, you are always welcome to reach out to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies by emailing smugrad@smu.edu or by calling us at 214-768-4345. I wish you a good and safe summer. I look forward to seeing those of you who are graduating at our August Commencement ceremony and to welcoming the rest of you back to campus for a healthy opening in the fall.

Sincerely,



James E. Quick
Dean of Graduate Studies
and Associate Provost for Research