

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



May 14, 2021

Dear Graduate Students,

As the spring semester comes to a close and the summer begins, I want to congratulate all of you on making it through a very difficult year. And I offer a special congratulations to our May graduates for persevering through many challenges to complete your degrees. This was no small feat.

As President Turner recently announced, over the summer SMU will gradually move to normal occupancy limits in all spaces across campus and lessen other restrictions as appropriate while continuing to closely monitor federal and state health recommendations. I encourage you to read Dr. Turner's letter, which includes a full list of changes and their timelines, [here](#). Please note that each summer term will have slightly different safety protocols as we make this transition. As Dr. Turner points out, COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations in Dallas have declined, and case counts on campus have remained low—in fact, the [Mustang Strong COVID-19 dashboard](#) has reported 0 active cases every day since May 5. COVID-19 vaccines are also widely available, including at the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center on campus. You will find the most current information on the [Mustang Strong vaccine page](#), and continuing graduate students will receive updates about vaccine availability from the Dr. Bob Smith Health Center by email throughout the summer. I hope, therefore, that you will share my optimism for a return to normal at SMU and in your lives beyond the University soon.

At the same time, however, I know that the Coronavirus pandemic is not over. I wish to express my sympathy to those of you who are still suffering due to the pandemic, including those of you with loved ones in places where COVID-19 is surging. In [previous letters](#), I have highlighted resources SMU makes available to graduate students, and I encourage all of our continuing graduate students to make use of these resources as needed in these challenging times. The pandemic has created unique challenges for international students, and so I want to remind our international graduate students especially that you can reach out to the [International Student and Scholar Services](#) office if you have questions about fall semester enrollment options or other issues related to attendance in the fall.

For those of you who are graduating, I wish you well on a great journey and encourage you to stay connected to your SMU community. For our continuing students, I look forward to seeing you during the summer and to welcoming those of you who are away during the summer back to campus in the fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James E. Quick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James E. Quick

Dean

Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies