

14 May 2020

Dear graduate students and faculty:

The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance on the status of graduate student research and scholarship.

As stated in the May 5 memo to faculty from Vice President for Research, Chris Keane, and interim Provost Bryan Slinker, the previous guidance from March 26 remains in effect.

“In particular, all who can conduct research, scholarly, and creative activities remotely should continue to do so. WSU’s March 26 directive lists on-site activities approved to continue as long as they are conducted under mandated safety standards, including extreme social distancing and disinfecting.” (see <https://from.wsu.edu/provost/2020/research-activities-update/email.html>)

The WSU-approved research activities under this guidance included those activities that are essential to support students planning to graduate soon. No new experiments should be started. However, if any student requires short-term access to a research facility on campus, for example, to pick up lab notes or relevant documents in order to continue writing a thesis, dissertation or a manuscript, such access is allowed. Students requiring access should coordinate with their faculty advisor to do so in a manner that meets physical distancing standards, maintains minimal personnel density in the research and office spaces, and facilitates the wearing of respiratory etiquette masks within shared spaces or common areas.

A large team of WSU leaders, led by the Office of Research and the Associate Deans and Vice Chancellors for Research from each college and campus, are assembling a detailed plan for the staged modification of research, scholarship and creative activities. In other words, a plan to safely begin ramping up the WSU engine for scholarly endeavors will be forthcoming. However, until these policies are finalized, and until procedures are put in place, the guidance from March 26 must be followed.

As more information becomes available, I will endeavor to communicate this quickly and succinctly to graduate students and faculty.

Best regards,



Lisa M. Gloss
Dean of the Graduate School