



GSEHD

Pathways to Dissertation Defense: Spring 2021

During virtual operations in the spring 2021 semester, there are three pathways for dissertation defenses. In all three pathways, your dissertation materials are always due 30 days in advance of the date of defense. Please see page 2 of this document for a full list of required dissertation materials.

1. To be a spring 2021 graduate, students must submit all materials no later than February 10th. The last day to defend is set as March 12th. Your final document must be uploaded to ProQuest by April 14th at 5pm. This deadline is set by the University provost and library and not within our control: <https://library.gwu.edu/etd/submission-deadlines>.
2. The blackout period—the time during which defenses cannot be held—is being significantly reduced during virtual operation. The last day to defend during the spring semester will be April 26th, the university's last day of classes. Students must always submit materials 30 days in advance, so to defend during this timeframe, you must submit materials between February 11th and March 26th. Any student defending between March 13th and April 26th will enroll in Continuous Enrollment (CE) at no cost for the summer 2021 semester. They will be a summer 2021 graduate.
3. Students who are not ready to submit their materials by March 26th, but do submit them by May 1st, may also enroll in CE at no cost for the summer semester. They will schedule defenses in early summer 2021 and be summer 2021 graduates. May 1st will be the last day to submit materials for a summer defense for anyone who wishes to enroll in CE, rather than dissertation research credits, during the summer 2021 semester.¹

These pathways apply for the spring 2021 semester only. Please also note that by providing these three options, there will be no need for exceptions or extensions. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Dannels (sdannels@gwu.edu).

¹ Please note: The May 1st deadline constitutes a change from the previously posted April 26th, and May 1st will remain the due date going forward.



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Materials Due for Dissertation Defense: Spring 2021

- [Request for Dissertation Oral Examination - Google Forms](#). While completing this form, which constitutes your formal submission of materials and request for defense, you will be asked to attach the following additional materials:
 - [Dissertation Approval Form](#)
 - CVs of any committee members or readers who are not current GW faculty members, if not previously submitted
 - Your completed dissertation in Word format. **Please be sure that your dissertation is formatted correctly** to ensure you will not have any issues with ProQuest upload and approval. Your dissertation must follow the [University Formatting Guidelines](#) and match the template provided on the [GSEHD Style Guide](#).
- For students graduating in Spring 2021 (pathway 1): Submit an online [Application for Graduation](#) for the spring semester.
- For students graduating in Summer 2021 (pathways 2 or 3): Submit an online [Application for Graduation](#) for the summer semester once that application is available. If the application is not open yet, you may apply to graduate later, after it opens. All graduation application deadlines are listed on the [Office of the Registrar's website](#).
- For students taking pathways 2 or 3 above, Continuous Enrollment Form for the summer 2021 semester, filled out and submitted via email to docgsehd@gwu.edu: https://registrar.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2171/f/LOA_CE201901.pdf.

Please note, these materials must be submitted in full at least 30 days before your dissertation defense. Partial submissions cannot be accepted.

Due Dates at a Glance: Spring 2021

- **February 10:** Last day to submit dissertation materials for a spring 2021 graduation
- **March 12:** Last day to defend for a spring 2021 graduation
- **March 26:** Last day to submit materials to defend in the spring semester as a summer 2021 graduate
- **April 14, 5pm ET:** Deadline to submit final dissertation to ProQuest for spring 2021 graduates
- **April 26:** Last day to defend during the spring semester
- **May 1:** Last day to submit materials to defend in the summer 2021 semester while enrolled in CE