

What to do during the months of June, July, and August

Faculty members in the Department of Teaching and Curriculum maintain various commitments during the months of June, July, and August. Some remain at the University as summer course instructors, while others take on travel-intensive assignments, like guest teaching or international research, that may not be feasible during the academic year. All partake in one form of scholarship or another – both reading and producing – to stay current in their fields of study and provide opportunities for their students to do the same. Some manage and revise their teacher education programs and interview candidates during the July application cycle; others write grants and carry out grant-funded engagements, like the National Writing Project, Environmental Action Camp, and Teaching American History institutes. Still others do several of those things at once. Given the idiosyncrasies of faculty members' summer roles and responsibilities and the Teaching and Curriculum Department's deep professional commitment to advising its students, we ask that students seeking assistance during June, July, and August observe the following recommendations and guidelines to ensure that their needs are met promptly and effectively.

Q: How should I plan what courses to take in the summer session and fall semester?

Generally, program planning is done at the outset of students' programs of study, and then on as-needed bases during the fall and spring semesters. Students who need course advising in advance of summer or fall sessions should plan to communicate or meet with their advisors before the end of the preceding spring semester, as course schedules and registration for both typically are available and open in mid-March. For master's students beginning their programs during the summer session, program directors will be available on an as-needed basis for advisement during the July enrollment cycle's interview week. All students can access sample programs of study, course schedules, and important calendars via the Warner School website.

Q: As a doctoral student, what kinds of contact should I expect with my academic advisor?

As noted above, students' contacts and commitments with their advisors vary during the summer months. Each advisor will communicate her or his availability with individual doctoral advisees before the end of the spring semester. Faculty members who have agreed to serve on dissertation committees for students in the accelerated Ed.D. program will participate in the proposal defense process during the summer months.

Q: What kinds of feedback should I expect on program benchmarks like master's portfolios and theses, doctoral comprehensive exams, and dissertations?

For master's theses, students should not expect feedback during the summer months. For master's portfolios, program directors will provide submission schedules and indicate what kinds of support students should expect before their August deadlines. For regular Ed.D. and Ph.D. comprehensive examinations and dissertations, program timelines are arranged so that meetings, evaluations, and defenses do not extend into the summer months. Some faculty members may opt to read those documents over the summer but will not impose upon committee members or other colleagues to accommodate their students' schedules. These guidelines represent a basic set of expectations; faculty members who diverge from them do so at their discretion.

Q: Who should I contact if I have an urgent need or question?

The Teaching and Curriculum Department has appointed faculty members to serve as advisement liaison for master's students during the summer months. Should you have urgent questions or concerns about your academic program, please contact Rabia Hos at rabia.hos@warner.rochester.edu (secondary students), Susan Hetherington at shetherington@warner.rochester.edu (elementary students), or Martha Mock at mmock@warner.rochester.edu (early childhood students). For urgent administrative support needs, please contact Pam Kaptein at pkaptein@warner.rochester.edu. You will receive a response to your inquiry within 48 hours, excluding weekends.