



I am very pleased to welcome you to our Claremont Graduate University community and introduce you to an important navigational tool - the First Year Experience Newsletter. Within this newsletter, you will find introductions to key campus resources and activities – all of which transitioned to our virtual campus experience, that keep you both academically supported and physically healthy.

You will hear from our Office of Student Engagement and me throughout your academic career, but particularly during this important first year. We are determined to help you succeed. We know that feeling connected to CGU is nearly as important as academic quality. We will showcase many ways to build connections among your peers, as well as with our amazing faculty, staff members, and global alumni network.

We all realize that these are challenging times, but we are here to help. Please take advantage of the CGU resources that we offer, and feel free to contact us if we can help

you in any way as you embark on your academic life-journey.

Thank you for becoming one of CGU's many flames that join to make one clear and impactful light. I look forward to meeting you virtually – as well as face-to-face on campus as soon as possible.

Best of luck to you for a successful semester,
Diane Chase



Diane Z. Chase
Vice President for Academic Innovation, Student Success & Strategic Initiatives

FLOURISH in Your First Year Events

Saturday Morning Coffee

Saturday, September 5, 2020 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am PT

[RSVP](#)

It's Saturday morning! Let's get together for games and fun! This is an informal activity meant to build community and camaraderie. Families and pets are welcome!

First Year Mixer

Friday, September 11, 2020 | 11:30 am - 12:30 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

Following the Career Connections Conference, this virtual networking session is an opportunity for first-year students to form valuable personal and professional connections.

Monthly Coffee Hour Chat

Saturday, September 22, 2020 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

FLOURISH in Your First Year invites you to connect with your peers and an invited guest for a conversation on various topics! In September, join us and a special guest from the

Center for Writing and Rhetoric to chat about how to create and leverage your own writing group in graduate school.

In October, jump into a conversation designed for international students to talk about the current social climate in the United States. In November, you'll get a chance to get to know other CGU students who are further along in their degree programs.

THRIVE Summit — First Year Graduate Scholars of Color

Saturday, September 22, 2020 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

The THRIVE Summit and FLOURISH in Your First Year invite first-year graduate scholars of color to a half-day opportunity to learn and build connections. This half day marks the first in a three day THRIVE Summit, with the first day being reserved exclusively for first-year scholars of color. This event is people-of-color centered, queer and trans-affirming, and open to scholars of all abilities and bodies.

Coping with the Load: Reference Management Software

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

Reference management software is a scholar's best friend! This workshop gives you tools to thrive during graduate school by showing how Zotero, a free reference management software, can save time and prevent citation frustrations. Organizing all your sources, reading notes, and entering citations manually can be overwhelming and cost precious time, especially when working on a long-term project like a thesis or dissertation. Come learn how to use Zotero and make grad writing easier!

Unlocking the Mysteries of the U.S. Workplace

Thursday, October 22, 2020 | 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm PT | Virtual

[RSVP](#)

During this session, students meet with the Career Development Office staff and learn about the cultural and political written and unwritten rules for professional success in a U.S. organization.

Coping with the Load: Time Management and Developing Habits for Success

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

The dynamics of the graduate school workload are unique, and is often a challenge to integrate academic demands into the rest of life. This workshop gives you tools to thrive during graduate school by providing time management techniques to develop sustainable habits and plan effectively.

Information Literacy and Library Services: Critical Tools for Graduate Student Success

Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

As a graduate student, information literacy is crucial to your success. Jennifer Beamer, Scholarly Communication Librarian, and Kimberly Jackson, STEM Librarian, will discuss and define information literacy. Practical topics include how to find credible research and openly accessible sources, how to narrow a research topic, and how subject librarians play a key role in empowering you to find and access this information.

Navigating the Stress Pit

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 | 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm PT

[RSVP](#)

Join us for an interactive workshop and discussion on tips to navigate highly stressful environments and times in your life. We hope that you leave the session feeling more equipped to face stressful periods that you will encounter as a student and beyond your time at CGU!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ask Me Drop-In Hours

Hosted by the Office of Student Engagement

August 31- September 2 | Time Varies | Virtual

We know that the first week of classes is filled with excitement and some last-minute nerves. Perhaps, you have questions that you don't know who to ask, or you aren't sure about how to log into your Canvas page; we are available to offer support. The Office of Student Engagement is here to virtually assist students as you navigate the first week of the fall term. You can [visit our website](#) for a full listing of times and Zoom links.

Public Comments & Suggestions to Interim Title IX Policy

Hosted by the Dean of Students Office

September 1 & 17 | 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm | Virtual

Students of The Claremont Colleges (TCC) are invited to comment on the new Title IX policy by participating in one of the TCC webinars featuring Cristina Rose, of the TCC Board of Directors and Liz Paris, Title IX Consulting Attorney. Ms. Rose and Ms. Paris will provide an overview of the process, the new policy, and take questions and provide answers. Following each webinar will be a listening forum hosted by each campus for their students, faculty, and staff. To RSVP for the webinars, [click here](#).

To review the Title IX interim policy and/or submit your comments online, [click here](#).

Career Connections Conference

Hosted by the Career Development Office

Friday, September 4 & 11, 2020 | 9:00 am - 11:00 am PT | Virtual

The conference is designed to ignite your career interests and planning. The slogan, "[b]e aware, explore and prepare," represents three of the career development stages all students experience throughout their time at CGU.

[Register here](#).

Writing Retreat

Hosted by the Center for Writing and Rhetoric

Saturday, September 26 | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm | Virtual

Are you looking for writing accountability and an opportunity to gain community support in the process? Writing Retreats develop writers' ability to set effective goals and track their own writing processes. In addition, Writing Retreats help students find sustainable writing habits that move their work forward. For more information about participating in a Writing Retreat, visit the [CWR website](#). ***Registration opens two weeks prior to each session.***

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION ON CANVAS

Structured as a self-paced course, the New Student Welcome page on [Canvas](#) introduces students to the resources, and student service offices available at CGU.

To begin, we encourage you to review the following modules in particular:

- Financial Aid and Literacy (Module 2, page 7)
- Student Life and Community at CGU (Module 3)
- Shared Resources at The Claremont Colleges (Module 4)
- Technical Help and Resources (Module 5)
- Navigating Your First Week (Module 6)

FLOURISH IN YOUR FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE IS ON CANVAS

Created with you in mind and to get you engaged and informed, the Flourish in Your First Year Experience (FYE) [Canvas](#) site connects first year students to upcoming events across the university, resources to set you up for success and announcements about forthcoming activities. Stay tuned for our weekly discussion post from the Office of Student Engagement.

To begin, we encourage you to:

- Accept the invitation to the Flourish in Your First Year canvas page
- Upload the Vision Boards you created during New Student Orientation to the FYE Canvas Page
- Review the First Year Checklist
- Check the weekly discussions post every Monday

FIRST YEAR CHECKLIST

Lastly, the [First Year Checklist](#) provides action items essential to first year CGU graduate students.

A LOOK BACK: Fall 2019 Flourish in Your First Year Student Spotlight

We asked first year students who participated in our FLOURISH program to provide some advice to our incoming students. We hope sharing their experience helps you identify ways in which you can navigate your first year at CGU. Visit [our website](#) for a full listing of student spotlights.



NICOLE

Nicole's advice to first year students was "schedule time with the Dean or Professors who share similar research interests as you" and stated "CGU is a family... When you embrace this uniqueness you can really have the support you need to further your career and education."

PARIL

Paril's advice to incoming students was to "Just breathe. Don't try to control everything. The events on campus prior to your first day help in setting the foundation for the first year. So attend the events and talk to people! Make connections."





ARLINE

Arline's advice was, "Be flexible...Prepare yourself to be challenged...Recognize that your research interests will evolve...Do not be afraid to reach out and ask for help...and take advantage of the campus resources provided for you via your tuition and fees."

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

- Please email us at student.engagement@cgu.edu