

TIMELY TOPICS

Fall 2026 Student Track



TIMELY TOPICS

Timely Topics is a series of opportunities to engage with subject matter experts on topics relevant to graduate education. Every session is open to all who wish to attend, however, The Graduate School highlights three tracks (student, faculty, and administrative) to help registrants identify which sessions may be most relevant to their interests. This flyer includes sessions for graduate students and postdocs. Sessions for the faculty and administrative tracks are listed on the [Timely Topics webpage](#), along with slides, recordings, and resources from past sessions.

REGISTRATION

All sessions are virtual. To register for any of this semester's Timely Topics series, click the button below.

REGISTRATION

CONTACT

DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDENT ADMINISTRATION

Megan Petsa | megan.petsa@uconn.edu

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Whetten Graduate Center

gradschool@uconn.edu

grad.uconn.edu/timely-topics

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DIFFICULT SUBJECTS/CIVIL CONVERSATIONS: A STRUCTURED DIALOGUE WORKSHOP

In today's polarized academic and social climate, graduate Teaching and Research Assistants play a critical role in fostering respectful and productive conversations. This one-hour, tools-based workshop introduces structured dialogue techniques that support active listening, constructive engagement, and communication across difference. Participants will gain practical strategies to navigate challenging discussions in classrooms, research settings, and collaborative environments. Join the Democracy & Dialogues Initiative to strengthen your ability to lead with clarity, empathy, and professionalism.

DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATORS:

Nana Amos, Director of Community Outreach & Engagement, The Dodd Center for Human Rights; Co-Director, Democracy & Dialogues Initiative & **Brendan Kane**, Professor, History and Literature, Cultures, and Languages; Co-Director, Democracy & Dialogues Initiative

RESEARCHER PRIVACY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

In today's increasingly connected academic landscape, researchers face unique privacy and security challenges. This session will provide you with practical strategies to assess and protect your digital footprint, implement essential privacy measures, and respond effectively to potential issues. From managing your scholarly identity to handling controversial research areas, learn how to balance academic visibility with personal privacy.

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Jennifer Schaefer, Research Services Librarian, Homer Babbidge Library





BEING STRATEGIC: CAREER READINESS MILESTONES

Have you ever wondered whether you truly understood everything involved in reaching your career goals? Do you ever feel like you wished you had taken a career prep action step sooner? Maybe you know you need to do something, but "what" remains a mystery.

By the end of the session, you'll have a clearer understanding of the career preparation process, a roadmap of important milestones for different career paths, and actionable next steps to help you navigate your career readiness with greater confidence. Identifying and reaching your career goals requires intentional steps and a structured plan.

DATE: Wednesday, October 28, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Kay Gruder, Associate Director, Graduate Student and Postdoc Career Programs and Services, Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills

MAKING CONNECTIONS THAT COUNT: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION AND IN-PERSON NETWORKING

Strong professional communication—whether in person, over email, or in professional settings—is essential to success in graduate school and beyond. This session highlights strategies for communicating clearly and professionally in a range of contexts, as well as strategies for starting conversations, navigating in-person networking events, and following up effectively to turn brief interactions into lasting professional relationships.

DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

FACILITATOR:

Melanie Sinche, Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Success, The Graduate School

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