



EMORY  
LANEY  
GRADUATE  
SCHOOL

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**To: The Laney Graduate School Community**

September 14, 2012

Dear Colleagues –

By now, you will have heard about the departmental changes initiated by Emory College of Arts and Sciences, and their effect on graduate programs ([news.emory.edu/EmoryCollegePlan](http://news.emory.edu/EmoryCollegePlan)). I write to confirm the changes in Laney Graduate School programs, and to assure you of our close engagement with all aspects of these changes that affect graduate education.

As Dean Robin Forman explains in his letter (available at the link above), Emory College is engaged in an effort to enhance areas of distinction and to reallocate resources to support new and emerging areas. As part of this effort, Emory College is closing or reorganizing several entities, and is creating five faculty committees to plan new developments in designated areas.

These changes are the outcome of an extended process of deliberation and consultation. Dean Forman and the leadership of Emory College have faced important challenges for some time, and have engaged in a thorough and deliberate process of determining how to go forward. Laney Graduate School is an important partner for Emory College, and because these changes will impact graduate education, we have participated in aspects of their planning process and we have been responsive in areas of shared responsibility. The final decisions have been taken with careful consideration given to the present and future engagement of affected units with doctoral education.

The most immediate direct impact on graduate education is that the admission of new students will be suspended in graduate programs aligned with Economics, Educational Studies, the Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts, and Spanish. This suspension will be effective immediately.

It is important to note that while the admission of new students will be suspended, the status of current students will not change. These students remain enrolled with no change in the terms of financial support or their eligibility for benefits such as Professional Development Support funds or fellowships for advanced students, and they will have the opportunity to complete their degrees within the normal timeframes associated with their disciplines. We will be working with faculty leadership in these programs to develop additional support structures as appropriate to the circumstances of each program. We are fully committed to working with faculty in the programs to support the ambitions and progress of their students.

In terms of planning committees for new and emerging areas, we are working with Emory College in areas where doctoral or other graduate education is involved. For example, interdisciplinary studies has

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long been an area emphasized by the Laney Graduate School, and we know it is of the first importance for graduate faculty and students in fields across all areas of the university. The Graduate Institute of Liberal Arts was the first of what are now many institutional homes for such studies in the Laney Graduate School. We look forward to working with Emory College and the faculty committee to envisage a robust and different future for this important set of scholarly and educational projects. In similar ways, the Laney Graduate School brings to the work of these committees important investments and commitments surrounding doctoral education and professional development in the areas of China Studies, Digital Studies and New Media, Neuroscience, and the teaching of science. We are looking forward to engaging with Emory College planning efforts surrounding these growth areas.

Over the course of the next several weeks, we will invite faculty from across Laney Graduate School to join conversations both to explain the immediate changes and their direct impact, and to explore the new directions announced by Dean Forman and their importance for graduate education. Some of these conversations will be completely open-ended, in the form of Dean's Hours, while others will be convened to discuss particular areas of change.

Doctoral education represents the training of a new generation of intellectual leaders, the emergence of new ways to understand and engage with the natural, scientific, social and cultural worlds we live in, and a continuing effort to contribute to addressing and solving the most difficult issues of our time. At Emory, doctoral education also always represents partnership between schools and units who find common purpose in their different contributions.

As Dean Forman and the leadership of the Emory College of Arts and Sciences have engaged in a thorough process of deliberation and decision, their commitment to our partnership around doctoral education has been at the forefront. The changes announced this week present important challenges and opportunities for graduate education at Emory. The Laney Graduate School stands with Emory College, committed to exploring emerging areas with the sense of enterprise and creativity that new times and new directions demand.

With you and with all best assurances,



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