

TO: Psychology faculty, lecturers, and fall quarter instructors

CC: Graduate student representatives, Psychology staff

Dear colleagues:

As you are aware, a wildcat strike is underway in which graduate student workers plan to withhold submission of grades as a form of collective action to obtain greater economic security.

Psychology is committed to supporting our graduate and undergraduate students, and the department will not retaliate against any graduate student worker who participates in the strike.

Here is some information to help you plan for this week:

1. Graduate students will be proctoring exams, grading student work, and performing their duties as usual during finals week. The strike pertains to the **submission** of grades. **Unsubmitted grades do not default to “Incomplete”** but instead remain blank. Blank grades do not require processing or fees to be changed; however, credits are not assigned for courses where no grade is provided. If grades remain blank after the start of the following quarter, there can be negative consequences for some students' financial aid due to federal guidelines (see Pace of Completion section of the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy [infosheet](#) for an explanation).
2. Graduate students have indicated that they do not want the strike to impose significant harm on undergraduate students for whom the absence of a grade would prove harmful (e.g., not being able to graduate, losing financial aid, etc.). Your TA can explain how they are handling this issue.

I am holding space at the start of our department meeting on Wednesday for the graduate student representatives to update us and answer any questions faculty or staff may have.

Graduate students are making themselves especially vulnerable by taking this action. They are understandably nervous that they may experience judgment, retaliation, and lack of support from faculty (especially their advisors, with whom they have an especially dependent relationship in our apprenticeship system). Please consider any form of assuring communication with which you feel comfortable during this time. The students provided me with two links to share: the [petition](#) of support you can sign if you haven't already, and a [website](#) with more information about the strike.

While I hope that a resolution to this situation can be reached, I acknowledge the unprecedented nature of this situation. Communication from senior officials in the administration has been very limited and has not shed light on possibilities for a timely resolution. I will continue to update you as I have information.

Best wishes,

Phil

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