The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) and NAGPS member schools celebrate Graduate–Professional Student Appreciation Week during the first week of April each year. However, we have found that when and how institutions celebrate graduate and professional students can vary significantly. We hope to provide insight and inspiration for future events and activities that can be conducted in-person and/or virtually to show appreciation for your graduate and professional student populations.

Potential Events and Activities for Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week

Below are events and activities that your institution/college/department can organize to celebrate graduate and professional students during (or even outside of) Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week:

- (Virtual) Coffee and conversation
- (Virtual) Happy hours
- Digital gift card distribution
- Interactive e-cards or video e-card from staff
- (Virtual) Professional series programming workshops
- Email note of encouragement from President, Provost, Dean, Program Director, or Advisor
- (Virtual) Mindfulness meditation/yoga class/laughter therapy
- (Virtual) Karaoke
- (Virtual) Wellness check-ins
- Email fitness and wellness tips and resources
- (Website or in-person) Scavenger hunt
- (Virtual) Photo contests (pet, funny, best baby/childhood picture, “show your school spirit”)
- (Virtual) Bingo
- (Online or in-person) Discounts from the bookstore
- (Online or person) Hosting a “Grad students with children” event, which would be dedicated to graduate students that have a child or children, or are primary care-takers to young adults. Facebook group could be created to allow members to share and connect with others.

Sample Schedules of Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week

Examples of Graduate–Professional Student Appreciation Week schedules and programming ideas from various institutions are provided below. Please note that some of these examples are based on initiatives from prior years.

Duke University: https://gradschool.duke.edu/student-life/calendar-events/appreciation-week
University of Iowa: [https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-and-professional-student-appreciation-week](https://www.grad.uiowa.edu/graduate-and-professional-student-appreciation-week)

Kent State University: [https://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/graduate-student-appreciation-week](https://www.kent.edu/graduatestudies/graduate-student-appreciation-week)

University of Kansas: [https://graduate.ku.edu/graduate-student-appreciation-week](https://graduate.ku.edu/graduate-student-appreciation-week)

University of Maryland: [https://stamp.umd.edu/Graduate_Student_Life/Graduate_Student_Appreciation_Week](https://stamp.umd.edu/Graduate_Student_Life/Graduate_Student_Appreciation_Week)


University of Notre Dame: [https://gradlife.nd.edu/events-programs/graduate-student-appreciation-week/](https://gradlife.nd.edu/events-programs/graduate-student-appreciation-week/)