



Alumni Association Membership Transition Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is changing at the ECU Alumni Association?

The ECU Alumni Association is changing the way it funds its annual operations by moving away from a transactional, dues-based membership model to one that is based on annual philanthropic support from our ECU alumni and friends who we serve. The organizational structure, function, and mission of the alumni association - to inform, involve, and serve members of the ECU family throughout their lifelong relationship with the university - will remain the exact same.

Why is the association making this change?

Moving to an inclusive, non-dues-based model allows the ECU Alumni Association to better serve all our graduates and friends around the world. This new model encourages all Pirates to give generously in support of their university and their alumni association. This move also makes association processes more efficient and reduces duplication of effort between the ECU Alumni Association and its partners across campus. Overall, these changes will better align the ECU Alumni Association for future growth and an even higher level of service for all Pirates, including you!

When will this change take place?

The ECU alumni association will formally transition to its new model on July 1, 2018.

I'm a graduate of ECU, but have never been a member of the Alumni Association. Now that I'm a member, what are my benefits?

The ECU Alumni Association shows its appreciation to members in many ways, including special gifts at select alumni events, discounts on goods and services from our valued partners, our monthly 'ECU Connections' newsletter and special access to ECU events and programs near you. Your support also helps to grow the vast network of ECU alumni around the world, which currently numbers over 175,000 and counting! One of the best ways you can tap into the power of the ECU Alumni Network is to join our online community, ECU Connect. Be sure to check it out today by visiting www.ECUConnect.com.

I'm a Life or Centennial Member. What will happen to my membership?

Regardless of this change, our valued Life and Centennial members will retain their special place of distinction as foundational supporters of the ECU Alumni Association. The alumni association is committed to continue creating special opportunities to honor and recognize our Life and Centennial Members, to whom the association is forever grateful.

Can I still join as a Life or Centennial Member?

Lifetime and Centennial membership in the ECU Alumni Association will be extended to those association members who have already paid their membership in full, or who are in the process of paying toward their membership, prior to July 1, 2018.

Will I still be asked to pay annual alumni association dues?

As part of this transition, the ECU Alumni Association will no longer operate an annual membership program. Instead, all loyal Pirate alumni are encouraged to make a gift to the [ECU Alumni Priority Fund](#), which provides the alumni association with a means to preserve ECU history and traditions, support student scholars and to grow the power of the ECU Alumni Network worldwide.

Am I considered a member of the ECU Alumni Association even if I don't contribute to the ECU Alumni Priority Fund?

You are not required to contribute to the alumni association to be considered an association member. All living graduates of East Carolina University are now considered full members of the alumni association. However, all Pirates are encouraged to help advance ECU's mission of student success, public service, and regional transformation by making annual gifts in support of campus programs and projects that they care about. Please consider a gift to the [ECU Alumni Priority Fund](#) to help provide critical support necessary to help preserve ECU history and traditions, support student scholars and to grow the power of the ECU Alumni Network worldwide.

I attended ECU, but did not graduate. Am I considered a member of the alumni association?

The ECU Alumni Association defines "alumnus/alumni" as someone who has graduated from ECU (and all its previous names) and any former student who matriculated for at least two consecutive semesters, or equivalent, in pursuit of a degree. If you fit either category, you are considered an alumnus/a of East Carolina University and are automatically a member of the alumni association as a result of this transition.

I have an auto payment plan set up for my dues payments. How will those payments be handled after July 1?

If you are currently set up on an automatic membership payment plan, all future scheduled membership payments through your credit card, bank draft or payroll deduction arrangement will be processed as charitable gifts to the [ECU Alumni Priority Fund](#). This accounting change takes place effective July 1, 2018, and contributors will receive a gift receipt for contributions thereafter from East Carolina University. After July 1, 2018, you will be asked to declare your intent to continue supporting the ECU Alumni Association by authorizing the conversion of your automated membership dues to recurring gifts to the [ECU Alumni Priority Fund](#). No other changes are necessary for the remainder of scheduled automatic payments. Additionally, all previous dues payments will apply as recognition toward cumulative and consecutive giving history to ECU.

Will my ECU credit card be affected? What about the life insurance I purchased through the association, and other partner benefits?

ECU alumni benefits and discounts currently provided by our valued affinity partners, such as Nationwide Insurance, Bank of America, The Alumni Insurance Program, etc. will continue to be offered, as they are today.

Will this transition affect my alumni chapter?

The organizational structure, purpose, and function of all ECU Alumni Association regional and affinity alumni chapters will remain the same. If you haven't been involved in an alumni chapter and would like more information, please contact Lindsay Weston, Assistant Director for Outreach, at (252) 328-1958.

Will the Alumni Association still hold events on campus and across Pirate Nation?

Connecting Pirates through fun and meaningful programming is at the core of the ECU Alumni Association's mission, and this transition makes it possible for your alumni association to connect with an even greater number of Pirates. Great times are ahead in Pirate Nation! Be sure you are following 'ECU Alumni Association' on Facebook, or @PirateAlumni on Twitter and Instagram, to stay in the loop on exciting news and event announcements in the months ahead.

What if I have additional questions, or need more information?

Even after reading this information, it's understandable that you may have additional questions, or need information that wasn't given elsewhere in this document. If you have any questions, or need additional assistance, you are invited to contact the ECU Alumni Help Desk at 1-800-ECU-GRAD, or by emailing ecualumni@ecu.edu.