UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate

Professor Kenneth Barish
Division Chair

November 18, 2026

To: Lidia Kos, Vice Provost and Dean for Graduate Studies

Kara Oswood, Director of Graduate Affairs, Graduate Division

Re: Proposed changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (3rd Round)

Dear Lidia and Kara,

During the November 9, 2026 meeting, Executive Council discussed the proposed regulation changes along with comments received from committees. Here is the feedback from this for consideration of a revised proposal.

As you'll see in your review of the attached, comments speak to the resolution of timeline discrepancy, requirement removal, potential modifications for the sake of clarity and consistency, and concerns regarding restricting students' options.

In consideration of a potential revised proposal in response to comments and questions from reviewers, I share that some proponents find it helpful to include a cover letter that includes a summary and/or list of changes, answers to questions, and points of clarifications. Should you opt to resubmit your proposal, please address it to my attention via email (courtesy copy Senate Director Cherysa Cortez) with [New Business] included in the email subject line.

Best regards,
Ken Barish, Chair
Academic Senate

Cc: Senate Director Cortez
Senate Associate Director Sarah Miller

Enclosures

UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

October 15, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Richard Hooley, Chair
Graduate Council

RE: [Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) 3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Graduate Council reviewed the third round of proposed changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4 at their October 15, 2026 meeting. The Council was supportive of this version but noted a minor error that needs to be corrected as changes proposed in sections 02.01 and 02.03 have discrepancies in the timeline. 02.01 states that all requirements for the degree must normally be satisfied within one calendar year from the time of advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree. 02.03 states that the application for advancement to candidacy shall be made at the beginning of the quarter in which it is expected that all requirements for the degree will be completed. One member of the Council expressed concern over the removal of the language requirement.

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

Date: October 28, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Feng Xu, Chair
Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

Re: [Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) 3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has carefully considered the *3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy*.

R&J believes the proposed regulations would benefit from essential modifications to increase clarity and consistency of the proposal before final approval. The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction offers the following to assist in the above and to ensure overall document consistency:

1. **Plan availability (02.01).** 02.01 seems to suggest that both Plan I and II are available for all Master's degrees but this is not so under specific degree plans starting at 03.01 - a line should be added in 02.01 to indicate the existence of exceptions later. Suggested wording for the second sentence of 02.01:

   "With the approval of the Graduate Council, a graduate program may adopt one or both plans, except where the plans available for a specific degree objective are specified in 03.01."

2. **SR 688 / 690 (summer residence, 02.02.02, 04.01.02).**
   (a) "At least 2 units of work in two 5-week summer sessions" should read "in each," as SR 690 requires.

   (b) For the Ph.D., SR 690 requires the two sessions to be consecutive; 04.01.02 omits this. Suggested wording for the Summer Session sentence in 04.01.02:

"Summer Session enrollment counts as one quarter of residence if the student completes at least 2 units of work in each of two consecutive 5-week Summer Sessions or at least 4 units of work in a 10-week Summer Session."

(c) SR 690 is framed in six-week sessions. The proposal acknowledges that UCR's 5-week sessions do not match, but it should state the basis for treating them as equivalent.

(d) The summer options are placed in the sentence defining residence "in a regular quarter," which summer enrollment cannot satisfy. SR 688 (regular terms) and SR 690 (when Summer Sessions may be counted as a term) treat these separately. Separating them would also give 02.02.01's cross-reference ("the criteria outlined in 02.02.02") something to point to. Suggested rewording of the first paragraph of 02.02.02 (and correspondingly 04.01.02):

"A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as in residence in a regular quarter if the student attends authorized University courses amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of 4 units or more, or 4 units of upper division and/or graduate work. Summer Session enrollment counts as one quarter of residence if the student completes at least 2 units of work in each of two 5-week Summer Sessions or at least 4 units of work in a 10-week Summer Session."

(e) The current rule gives half a term's residence for a single summer session; under the proposal, a single session counts for nothing. The justification does not acknowledge this change.
These points were not raised in earlier rounds. R&J's November 2025 comment concerned only when summer counts toward residence, and GC's objection concerned cost. The justification cites SR 688 but not SR 690, which governs summer residence.

3. **SR 728 (Candidate in Philosophy).** SR 728 treats the C.Phil. as a degree. Programs authorized to confer it may recommend it upon a student's advancement to Ph.D. candidacy, and the award must specify the student's field of specialization. Proposed 03.02 and the heading of 03 refer to the C.Phil. as a "status," and they omit both the authorization requirement and the field requirement. The limitation to students leaving UCR is narrower than SR 728. Because SR 728 is permissive, this limitation may be within the Division's discretion, but the justification should acknowledge it. The Committee also notes that its November 2025 suggestion to place the definition first has not been reflected in the text. Suggested rewording:

Heading of 03: "Requirements for Specific Master's Degree Objectives and for the Degree of Candidate in Philosophy"
03.02 Requirements for the Degree of Candidate in Philosophy (C.Phil.): "The degree of Candidate in Philosophy may be awarded, in graduate programs authorized to confer it, to a Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy. It is awarded only to students leaving UCR without a Master's or doctoral degree. Applications must be made to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies with the recommendation of the graduate program concerned. The degree award shall specify the student's field of specialization."

4. **Removal of 02.04 (Scholarship Requirements).** The justification states that 02.04 is "already covered" by Regulation 1.2. The Committee is not certain this is so. Under 02.04, a 3.0 average in program-related upper-division and graduate courses is a condition of the Master's degree, and the Graduate Council may waive it for a distinguished final-year record. Regulation 1.2 instead makes a cumulative GPA below 3.0 a ground on which students "become subject to dismissal," with

action by the Dean, and contains no Graduate Council waiver. Removal would therefore appear (a) to end the 3.0 average as a degree requirement for the Master's, and (b) to remove an authority currently held by the Graduate Council. The Committee asks that the justification address these effects, or that 02.04 be retained.

5. **Amendment history.** The proposed text drops the amendment notes carried by the provisions it revises: "(Am 24 Jan 74)" in 02.02, "(AM Feb 22)" in 04.01, and "(Am 24 May 05)(Am 11 Feb 22)" and "(Am 11 Feb 22)" in 04.05.01–.02. Unless the Division's practice is to reset the history on revision, these notes should be retained and a new amendment date added on adoption (e.g., "(Am [date of Division vote])"), so the record of earlier Division actions is preserved.

6. **Cross-references.** The proposal cites other Graduate Division Regulations in three different forms: bare numbers ("outlined in 02.02.02," "beginning in 03.01.01"), "GR" with title ("Standards of Scholarship regulation GR 01.02"), and "GR" without space or title ("can be found in GR05"). Since all refer to the same set of regulations, a single form should be used throughout, e.g., "Regulation 01.02 (Standards of Scholarship and Disqualification)" and "Regulation 05 (Transfer of Units and Backdating)," with bare numbers reserved for subsections of the same regulation.

7. **Transfer provisions (02.02.02, 04.01.02).** The transfer paragraph restates Regulation 5.3 (transfer from institutions outside UC) in different terms, then refers to Regulation 05 for the full rules. It should either be replaced by a cross-reference or conform to 5.3:

   (a) "work taken elsewhere… in an institution of high standing" should read "from institutions outside the University of California," as in 5.3.

   (b) "or two courses if less than 8 units" does not appear in Regulation 05.

   (c) In 04.01.02 the paragraph appears to introduce a limit on Ph.D. transfer credit. The Committee could not locate a corresponding provision elsewhere in the Graduate Division Regulations: Regulation 05 caps transfer only for the Master's degree, and the Committee did not find a Ph.D. unit or course requirement against which such a limit would operate. If a Ph.D. limit is intended, the Committee would welcome clarification of its basis and of whether it represents a change; if so, it might more appropriately be placed in Regulation 05. Similarly, the clause referring to the "minimum requirement in graduate courses taken at this University" does not appear to have a counterpart in the Ph.D. requirements.

   (d) Regulation 5.3, which is not amended by this proposal, refers to the minimum graduate units for the "thesis plan" and the "comprehensive exam plan." Under the proposal, the latter becomes the Capstone plan (02.01.02), in which a comprehensive exam is one option among several. 5.3's wording could then be read as applying only to students whose capstone is an examination. The proposers may wish to consider a conforming amendment to 5.3, e.g.: "(24 units for Plan I (Thesis) and 18 units for Plan II (Capstone) are required)."

8. **Typo (04.01.02).** 04.01.02 reads "regarded as a in residence" (cf. 02.02.02, "regarded as in residence").

10/2/2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

Subject: SOE FEC's Comments on 3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the 3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2. Comments/feedback were solicited via email.

This revision largely addresses the SOE's earlier concerns by allowing the M.Ed. capstone to be either an analytical report or project. However, we request that the language "depending on concentration" be removed from 03.01.04 as it may restrict student options for the Teacher Education Program in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,



Kinnari Atit
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee
Associate Professor
School of Education
University of California, Riverside
Email: kinnari.atit@ucr.edu

Received 4/30/2026
Academic Senate

GRADUATE DIVISION
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
December 1, 2026

To be adopted:

The Graduate Division proposes changes to the following regulations:

02 – Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration
03 - Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts
04 – Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

PRESENT:	**PROPOSED:**
02 – ~~Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration~~	02 – Requirements for all Master's Degree Objectives
02.01 ~~Plans. A graduate student must pursue one of the following plans for fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree at the option of the department or graduate group of his/her field~~. With the approval of the Graduate Council, ~~a department or graduate group~~ may adopt one or ~~the other or~~ both ~~of the~~ plans. Under either plan all requirements for the degree must normally be satisfied within a calendar year from the time of ~~completion of the course requirements.~~	02.01 *Plans for the Master's Degree* The Master's Degree may only be completed using Plan I (Thesis) or Plan II (Capstone). With the approval of the Graduate Council, a graduate program may adopt one or both plans. Under either plan, all requirements for the degree must normally be satisfied within one calendar year from the time of advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree. If the graduate program offers more than one plan, students may change from one to another with the approval of the faculty graduate advisor.
02.01.01 ~~Plan I: Thesis Plan. A minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 24 of the 36 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University; of these a maximum of 12 may be in the graduate research for the thesis~~. ~~The preparation and presentation of an acceptable thesis is required for every candidate for the degree. Provided that these general requirements are met, the student is subject to his/her major department's or group's guidance in the distribution of his/her~~	02.01.01 *Plan I: Thesis Plan (Final Defense, Thesis Formatting, and Thesis Submission Requirements)* A thesis on a subject chosen by the candidate, bearing on the student's principal study and demonstrating the ability to conduct independent investigation is required of every candidate pursuing Plan I. In preparation of the thesis, the candidate is guided by a thesis committee, nominated to the Graduate Council for appointment. This committee shall be

~~work among the departments. In addition, the major department or group may require any examination which it deems necessary to test the candidate's knowledge of his/her field.~~ ~~02.06 Thesis Requirements~~ ~~02.06.01~~ ~~The thesis under Plan I is a report of an original investigation of a defined problem. The subject of the thesis must be approved by a committee of three members nominated by the department or graduate group of the student's major subject and appointed by the Graduate Council to advise on the program or research for the thesis and to pass finally upon its merits. One member of this committee shall preferably be chosen from a department or graduate group other than that of the major subject. The Chair of the committee is the director of the candidate's research.~~ ~~02.06.02~~ ~~The thesis for the Master's Degree must be prepared and presented in the~~ form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council.	composed of not fewer than three members, the majority of whom must be Academic Senate members from the student's graduate program. The student's major professor shall, in most cases, be Chair of the committee. The committee guides the candidate in research and, if the graduate program requires it, conducts a final defense that is open to the public. Unanimous approval of the thesis committee members is required to pass the final defense. The preparation and presentation of an acceptable thesis, in a form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council, is required of every candidate pursuing Plan I. Unanimous approval of the document by the thesis committee members is required. Students who miss the submission deadline or require changes after the quarter has concluded will be required to move their graduation conferral to a future term. Theses are deposited in an open access repository and are freely and openly available to the public (UC-AA-20-0488)
02.01.02 Plan II: ~~Comprehensive Examination Plan. A minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 18 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University, of which none may be in graduate research for the thesis or dissertation. Provided that these general requirements are met, the student is subject to his/her major department's or group's guidance in the distribution of his/her work among the departments.~~ A comprehensive final examination, ~~to be~~ of such nature and to be conducted in such manner as determined by the ~~department or group~~ concerned, is required of every candidate ~~for the degree~~.	02.01.02 *Plan II: Capstone Plan* A capstone requirement, of such nature and to be conducted in such manner as determined by the graduate program concerned, is required of every candidate pursuing Plan II. A program's options for the capstone requirement include, but are not limited to: Comprehensive Exam, Performance Exhibition, Professional Paper, or Project. Results of the capstone requirement (pass or fail) must be reported to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies by the day grades for the quarter are due.
New	02.01.03 *Deadline for Graduation* To receive a degree conferral date corresponding to a specific quarter, all academic and

	administrative requirements for the degree must be successfully finalized and documentation submitted to the academic program and the Graduate Division by the deadlines designated for that quarter.
New	02.02 *Residence Definition - Academic* Academic residence in a Master's program is defined by: • Number of quarters in the program • Number of units in the quarter • Student status in the quarter of graduation
~~02.02~~ *Residence Requirement~~s.~~* The minimum required period of residence in the University is one academic year (3 quarters) of which ~~two~~ quarters must normally be spent at the University of California, Riverside. It is not always possible, ~~however~~, to complete subject requirements within the minimum period of residence.	02.02.01 *Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters* The minimum required period of residence in the University is one academic year (3 quarters) of which 2 quarters must normally be spent at the University of California, Riverside. Summer sessions are only included in the residence quarter count if enrollment meets the criteria outlined in 02.02.02. It is not always possible to complete subject requirements within the minimum period of residence.
A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as ~~a student~~ in residence in a regular ~~term only~~ if ~~he/she is actually attending~~ authorized University ~~exercises~~ amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of ~~four~~ units or more; or ~~four~~ units of upper division and/or graduate work; or, in a ~~six~~-week summer session, ~~to~~ at least two units of ~~similar~~ work ~~for half a term's residence~~. ~~In addition,~~ up to 8 quarter units (or two courses if less than 8 units) of credit may be allowed for work taken elsewhere in graduate status in an institution of high standing, but these units cannot be used to reduce the minimum residence requirement or minimum requirement in graduate courses taken at this University. (Am 24 Jan 74)	02.02.02 *Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter* A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as in residence in a regular quarter if the student attends authorized University courses amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of 4 units or more; or 4 units of upper division and/or graduate work; or at least 2 units of work in two 5-week summer sessions or at least 4 units of work in a 10-week summer session. Up to 8 quarter units (or two courses if less than 8 units) of transfer credit may be allowed for work taken elsewhere in graduate status in an institution of high standing, but these units cannot be used to reduce the minimum residence requirement or minimum requirement in graduate courses taken at this University.

	The full transfer of unit regulations can be found in GR05.
New	02.02.03 *Residence Requirement - Graduation* A candidate is eligible for graduation from the University once they have completed the minimum residency requirement. Graduation in the summer session is permitted without enrollment if a student was enrolled, or on filing fee, the previous three quarters of the academic year. If that criterion is not met, the student must enroll in at least 1 unit in the 10-week summer session.
~~*02.03*~~ ~~*Foreign Language Requirement*~~. ~~Each department or graduate group shall determine whether or not a reading knowledge of one or more foreign languages shall form an integral part of the student's preparation for the Master's Degree. Satisfaction of a foreign language requirement shall be demonstrated, subject to approval of the department or graduate group, under one of the following options: (a) written examination administered by the department or graduate group; (b) Educational Testing Service Graduate School Foreign Language Test; (c) satisfactory completion of a course at a specified level. Evidence of satisfaction of the requirement will be provided to the Dean of the Graduate Division for each student where appropriate.~~	Remove
~~02.04~~ ~~*Scholarship Requirements*. Only courses in which the student is assigned grades A, B, C, or S are counted in satisfaction of the requirements for the Master's Degree. Furthermore, the student must maintain an average of at least three grade points per unit in all upper division undergraduate and graduate courses related to his/her Master's program and elected during his/her residence as a graduate student. In the case of a student who has made a distinguished record during the final year of residence, this requirement may be waived by the Graduate Council. (Am 23 Jan 75)~~	Remove

~~02.05~~ *Advancement to Candidacy*. Applications for advancement to candidacy must be made ~~through~~ the ~~Dean of the Graduate Division~~ with the recommendation of the ~~department or group concerned~~ and must contain a statement of the studies upon which the application is based. Application for advancement to candidacy shall be made at the beginning of the ~~term~~ in which it is expected that ~~the course~~ requirements for the degree will be completed.	02.03 *Advancement to Candidacy Requirement* To advance to candidacy for the Master's degree, students must apply to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies with the recommendation of the faculty graduate advisor of the graduate program in which the student is completing their degree. The candidacy application must contain a general statement of the studies upon which the application is based, by reporting the Plan (I or II) and the final requirements that will complete the degree. Application for advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree shall be made at the beginning of the quarter in which it is expected that all requirements for the degree will be completed.
~~02.06 - Thesis Requirements~~	Moved to 02.01.01
~~02.06.01~~ ~~The thesis under Plan I is a report of an original investigation of a defined problem. The subject of the thesis must be approved by a committee of three members nominated by the department or graduate group of the student's major subject and appointed by the Graduate Council to advise on the program or research for the thesis and to pass finally upon its merits. One member of this committee shall preferably be chosen from a department or graduate group other than that of the major subject. The Chair of the committee is the director of the candidate's research.~~	Moved to 02.01.01
~~02.06.02~~ ~~The thesis for the Master's Degree must be prepared and presented in the form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council.~~	Moved to 02.01.01
03 – ~~Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts~~	03 – Requirements for Specific Master's Degree Objectives and for the Status of Candidate in Philosophy (Plans and Units)
New	03.01 *Master's Unit Requirements*

	Unit limitations applicable to all Master's degree objectives are included here. Degree requirements, including units and available plans, for specific Master's degree objectives are listed beginning in 03.01.01. Plan I (Thesis) – A maximum of 12 units may be in directed research or graduate research for the thesis (297/299). Programs may reduce this maximum below 12 units. Plan II (Capstone) – A maximum of 12 may be in directed research (297). None may be in graduate research for the thesis or dissertation (299) unless the course description specifically permits work towards the capstone. Programs may reduce this maximum below 12 units. No units from 001-099, 291, 300 or 400 level courses may be used to complete the unit minimum for any Master's degree, unless approved by the Graduate Council.
Moved from 02.01.01 Plan I: Thesis Plan. A minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 24 of the 36 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University; of these a maximum of 12 may be in the graduate research for the thesis.	03.01.01 *Requirements for Plan I: Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Science (M.S.)* Plan I: Thesis Plan - A minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 24 of the 36 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University; of these 24 units, a maximum of 12 may be in directed research or graduate research for the thesis (297/299).
Moved from 02.01.02 Plan II: ~~Comprehensive Examination~~ Plan. A minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 18 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University, ~~of which none may be in graduate research for the thesis or dissertation.~~	03.01.02 *Requirements for Plan II: Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Science (M.S.)* Plan II: Capstone Plan - A minimum of 36 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 18 of the 36 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University; of these 18 units, a maximum of 12 may be in directed research (297).

New	03.01.03 *Requirements for Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)* A minimum of 80 units is required for the M.B.A. degree objective. Both plans are available for the M.B.A. • Plan I (Thesis) final defense not required. • Plan II students complete an industry-based group case analysis as part of the management synthesis course as their capstone.
New	03.01.04 *Requirements for Master of Education (M.Ed.)* A minimum of 36 units is required for the M.Ed. degree objective. However, some concentrations within the M.Ed. require more. Only Plan II is available for the M.Ed. • Students complete an Analytical Report or Analytical Project as their capstone, depending on the concentration.
New	03.01.05 *Requirements for Master of Finance (M.Fin.)* A minimum of 48 units is required for the M.Fin. degree objective. Only Plan II is available for the M.Fin. • Students complete a Comprehensive Exam as their capstone.
~~03.01 - MFA~~ ~~Program Requirements~~. A minimum of 54 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required. At least 18 of the 54 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University. The preparation and presentation of an acceptable creative project, the nature of	03.01.06 *Requirements for Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)* A minimum of 54 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area are required for the M.F.A degree objective.

which is to be determined by the Graduate Council on the recommendation of the ~~major department or group~~, is required of every candidate for the degree. ~~Provided that these general requirements are met, the student is subject to his/her major department's or group's guidance in the distribution of his/her work among the departments.~~ In addition, the ~~major department or group~~ may require any examination which it deems necessary to test the candidate's knowledge of ~~his~~ field.	• At least 18 of the 54 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University. Only Plan II is available for the M.F.A. • The preparation and presentation of an acceptable creative project, the nature of which is to be determined by the Graduate Council on the recommendation of the graduate program, is required of every candidate for the degree. • In addition, the graduate program may require any examination which it deems necessary to test the candidate's knowledge of the field.
New	03.01.07 *Requirements for Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc)* A minimum of 48 units is required for the MPAc. degree objective. • Directed research (297) is not permitted to apply towards this degree objective. Only Plan II is available for the MPAc. • Students complete a Comprehensive Exam as their capstone.
New	03.01.08 *Requirements for Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)* A minimum of 68 units is required for the M.P.H. degree objective. Both plans are available for the M.P.H. • Plan I requires a final defense presentation. • Plan II requires a capstone research project, including a presentation and report.
New	03.01.09 *Requirements for Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)*

	A minimum of 72 units is required for the M.P.P. degree objective. Only Plan II is available for the M.P.P. • Students complete a capstone research project.
~~03.02~~ ~~Other Requirements. The regulations pertaining to the degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science in regard to requirements for residence, foreign language, scholarship, and advancement to candidacy shall apply to this degree.~~	03.02 *Requirements for Candidate in Philosophy (C.Phil)* A Ph.D. student who is advanced to candidacy and leaving UCR without a degree may apply for the Candidate in Philosophy. This is awarded only to students leaving UCR without a Master's or doctoral degree. Applications for the Candidate in Philosophy must be made to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies with the recommendation of the graduate program concerned.
04 Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy	04 Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
New	04.01 *Residence Definition - Academic* Academic residence in a Ph.D. program is defined by: • Number of quarters in the program • Number of units in the quarter • Student status in the quarter of graduation
~~04.01~~ Residence Requirement. The minimum residence requirement for the Ph.D. degree is two years, ~~one~~ of which must be spent in continuous residence at the University of California, Riverside. Graduates of the University or other approved candidates may complete a part of their residence requirement elsewhere, subject to the approval of the Graduate Council. However, no graduate student may be recommended for the Ph.D. degree except upon	04.01.01 *Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters* The minimum required period of residence in the University is two academic years (6 quarters) of which 1 year must be spent in continuous residence at the University of California, Riverside. Summer sessions are only included in the residence quarter count if enrollment meets the criteria outlined in 04.01.02. Graduates of the University or other approved candidates may complete a part of their residence requirement

completing at least one year of residence at the University of California, Riverside, devoted to such a course of study as the Graduate Council regards as a proper year's work. (AM Feb 22)	elsewhere, subject to the approval of the Graduate Council. However, no graduate student may be recommended for the Ph.D. degree except upon completing at least one year of residence at the University of California, Riverside, devoted to such a course of study as the Graduate Council regards as a proper year's work.
New	04.01.02 *Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter* A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as a in residence in a regular quarter only if the student attends authorized University courses amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of 4 units or more; or 4 units of upper division and/or graduate work; or at least 2 units of work in two 5-week summer sessions or at least 4 units of work in a 10-week summer session. Up to 8 quarter units (or two courses if less than 8 units) of transfer credit may be allowed for work taken elsewhere in graduate status in an institution of high standing, but these units cannot be used to reduce the minimum residence requirement or minimum requirement in graduate courses taken at this University. The full transfer of unit regulations can be found in GR05.
New	04.01.03 *Residence Requirement - Graduation* A candidate is eligible for graduation from the University once they have completed the minimum residency requirement. Graduation in the summer session is permitted without enrollment if a student was enrolled, or on filing fee, the previous three quarters of the academic year. If that criterion is not met, the student must enroll in at least 1 unit in the 10-week summer session.
~~04.02~~	Remove

~~*Foreign Language Requirement*. Each department or graduate program shall determine whether or not a reading knowledge of one or more foreign languages shall form an integral part of the student's preparation for the doctoral degree. Satisfaction of a foreign language requirement shall be demonstrated, subject to approval of the department or graduate program, under one of the following options: (a) written or oral examination administered by the department or graduate program; (b) foreign Language placement exam or assessment conducted by an accredited organization; (c) satisfactory completion of a language course(s) at a specified level. (d) alternative language certification identified by the graduate program and approved by the Graduate Council. Evidence of satisfaction of the requirement will be provided to the Dean of the Graduate Division for each student where appropriate. (Am 11 Dec 69)(Am 11 Feb 22)~~	
~~04.03~~ Program of Study. The student's program of study must be approved by the Graduate Council, embrace a field of investigation previously approved by the graduate program, and extend over the full period of study. However, recommendation for the degree is based on the attainments of the candidate rather than the duration of study. ~~The field of study chosen by the student may lie in one department, except for essential related subjects, or in a combination of departments.~~	04.02 *Program of Study* The student's program of study must be approved by the Graduate Council, embrace a field of investigation previously approved by the graduate program, and extend over the full period of study. However, recommendation for the degree is based on the attainments of the candidate rather than the duration of study. Refer to Standards of Scholarship regulation GR 01.02 for expectations regarding taking courses outside program requirements. Lower-division undergraduate courses may only be taken when absolutely necessary and approved by the faculty graduate advisor in the program.
04.05 - Dissertation Committee and Dissertation Requirements	04.05 - Dissertation Committee, Final Defense, Dissertation Formatting and Dissertation Submission Requirements
04.05.01 A dissertation on a subject chosen by the candidate, bearing on the student's principal study and demonstrating the ability to make independent investigation, is required of every candidate for the degree. In its preparation, the	04.05.01 *Dissertation and Final Defense Requirements* A dissertation on a subject chosen by the candidate, bearing on the student's principal

candidate is guided by a dissertation committee, nominated to the Graduate Council for appointment. This committee is composed of not fewer than three members, the majority of whom must be Academic Senate members from the student's graduate program. ~~The principal director of the candidate's research~~ shall be Chair of the committee. The committee guides the candidate in ~~the candidate's~~ research and ~~may~~ conduct a final defense that is open to the general public. (Am 24 May 05)(Am 11 Feb 22)	study and demonstrating the ability to make independent investigation, is required of every candidate for the doctoral degree. In its preparation, the candidate is guided by a dissertation committee, nominated to the Graduate Council for appointment. This committee is composed of not fewer than three members, the majority of whom must be Academic Senate members from the student's graduate program. The student's major professor shall, in most cases, be Chair of the committee. The committee guides the candidate in research and conducts a final defense that is open to the general public. Unanimous approval of the dissertation committee members is required to pass the final defense.
04.05.02 The dissertation must be prepared and presented in the form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council. Dissertations are deposited into an open access repository and are freely and openly available to the public (UC-AA-20-0488) (Am 11 Feb 22)	04.05.02 *Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements* The preparation and presentation of an acceptable dissertation, in a form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council, is required of every candidate pursuing the Ph.D. Unanimous approval of the document by the dissertation committee members is required. Students who miss the submission deadline or require changes after the quarter has concluded will be required to move their graduation conferral to a future term. Dissertations are deposited in an open access repository and are freely and openly available to the public (UC-AA-20-0488)
New	*04.05.03* *Deadline for Graduation* To receive a degree conferral date corresponding to a specific quarter, all academic and administrative requirements for the degree must be successfully finalized and documentation submitted to the academic program and the Graduate Division by the deadlines designated for that quarter.

JUSTIFICATION and EXPLANATION OF CHANGES

02 – Requirements for all Master's Degree Objectives

- Updated to encompass all Master's degree objectives, instead of only specific degree objectives (MA, MS, MAD).

02.01 - Plans for the Master's Degree

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

- **Updated the plan switch language as recommended. Students are no longer limited to one change, but changes must be approved by faculty graduate advisor.**

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO CNAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The option to request an exception via the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate studies has been added to the regulation.

The concern that the proposed regulation limits program autonomy and may harm students by restricting degree pathway changes is understandable, but the regulation is necessary to ensure institutional accountability and promote timely degree completion.

Pathway switching is rare and usually happens in a specific set of circumstances, typically from thesis to comprehensive exam. The updated regulation still allows this one shift. Allowing unlimited pathway switching creates a loophole where a student who has exhausted their original track can simply switch to another, essentially permitting them to remain enrolled far beyond established institutional limits and even after the comprehensive exam has been passed.

Furthermore, the integrity of academic progression requires that students commit to a pathway. Once a student advances to candidacy, now due by the end of week three in the quarter they plan to graduate, they have formalized their commitment to a specific research or terminal project. The ability to easily switch pathways undermines the principle of timely progress, especially given that these changes often occur when a student faces research setbacks, which risks turning degree programs into open-ended periods of study. The proposed changes are not intended to be rigid, but rather to introduce necessary boundaries that uphold program standards.

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

All requested updates were completed.

- 2.1, lines 7-8: "...all requirements for the degree must normally be satisfied within one calendar year from time of advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree."
- 2.1, lines 10-12: "If..., the students may only change plans once, with the approval of the faculty graduate advisor, prior to advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree. Once advanced to candidacy, changing plans is not permitted."

- Added expectations for switching between Plan I and Plan II.
    - Students requesting late and multiple changes in plan has been an issue for Graduate Division and especially program faculty and staff. The Master's application for candidacy is due the first day of instruction for the student's final quarter in the program. Adding clarity to the regulation will help ensure that when students advance to candidacy, they have a finalized plan for graduation.

02.01.01 - Plan I: Thesis Plan (Final Defense, Thesis Formatting, and Thesis Submission Requirements)

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

"Please justify inclusion of the new language "After the approved thesis is submitted to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies; it may not be changed or altered."

- **This is not a new rule. The regulation is being updated to reflect the current standard of practice. This specific language is included to clarify that once a thesis is submitted and the submission deadline passes, that version is final. Any changes would result in the student's graduation date moving to a figure quarter.**
- Text has been updated to the following: "Students who miss the submission deadline or require changes after the quarter has concluded will be required to move their graduation conferral to a future term."

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

All requested updates were completed.

- 2.1.1, line 3: Change "make" to "conduct"
- 2.1.1, line 4: Delete "a"
- 2.1.1, line 4-5: Rephrase as "In preparation of the thesis, the candidate..." Thus: "...demonstrating the ability to conduct independent investigation, is required of every candidate pursuing Plan I. In preparation of the thesis, the candidate..."
- 2.1.1, line 8: Suggest replacing "is" with "shall be": "This committee shall be composed..."
- 2.1.1, section 3, line 4: Delete "a" before "Plan I"

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Combined 02.01.01, 02.06, 02.06.01, and 02.06.02 so all thesis requirements are in one regulation. This regulation applies to all Master's students completing Plan I.
- Moved unit requirements out of this regulation and to the specific Master's degree objective section.
- Removed outside member recommendation from the thesis committee. This is not current practice.
- Adding unanimous approval of the thesis committee members for final defense completion and thesis approval.

02.01.02 - Plan II: Capstone Plan

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

Please justify newly introduced deadline language "Results of the capstone requirement (pass or fail) must be reported to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies by the day grades for the quarter are due."

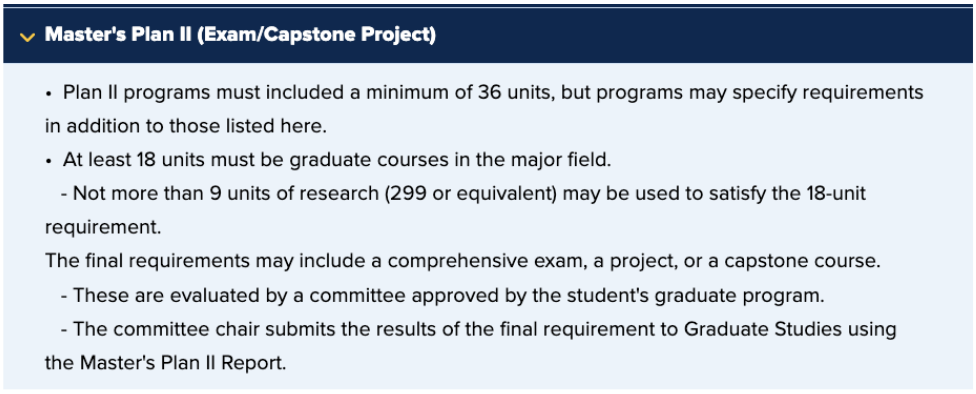
- **This is not a new rule. The regulation is being updated to reflect the current standard of practice. This deadline is necessary to meet the timeline for posting the degrees. If the Graduate Division receives capstone results later than this, the degree conferral is moved to a future quarter. This is further explained in 02.01.03.**

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

- Updated wording to, "Results of the capstone requirement (pass or fail) must be reported to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies by the day grades for the quarter are due." Clarified wording to remove "typically."
- Updated wording to, "A program's options for the capstone requirement includes, but is not limited to: Comprehensive Exam, Performance Exhibition, Professional Paper, or Project."

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Expanded the name of the Plan II from "comprehensive exam" to "capstone" to encompass Comprehensive Exams and other non-thesis options. This will bring the regulation in line with current practice.
- Many graduate programs currently use Plan II for a variety of capstones: e.g., analytical report, comprehensive exam, project, performance, professional paper, etc.
- Specified that the capstone results must be reported to the Graduate Division and the date those results are expected.
- Moved unit requirements out of this regulation and into the section for the specific Master's degree objective.
- UC Davis Example of a Plan II name like the proposed: https://gradstudies.sf.ucdavis.edu/masters-doctoral-candidacy



Master's Plan II (Exam/Capstone Project)

- Plan II programs must included a minimum of 36 units, but programs may specify requirements in addition to those listed here.
- At least 18 units must be graduate courses in the major field.
  - Not more than 9 units of research (299 or equivalent) may be used to satisfy the 18-unit requirement.

The final requirements may include a comprehensive exam, a project, or a capstone course.

- These are evaluated by a committee approved by the student's graduate program.
- The committee chair submits the results of the final requirement to Graduate Studies using the Master's Plan II Report.

02.01.03 - Deadline for Graduation

11/17/2025 UPDATE

- In the process of reviewing and making updates to the previous version, it was determined that in addition to the requirements, a deadline for submission was an important addition.

02.02 - Residence Definition - Academic

- The definition of "residence" was lacking in the regulations. This explains what that word means in the context of completing a Master's degree.
- Included the word "academic" to differentiate from California residency.
- Simplifying and separating the information to enhance clarity about the different aspects of residency regulations.
- UCOP residency regulations (688) - https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/rpart3.html#rpart3-IIch1-1
    - 688. A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as a student in residence in a regular term only if that candidate is actually attending authorized University exercises amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of four units or more, or four units of upper division and/or graduate work, or, in a six-week Summer Session, to at least two units of similar work; or, in an eight-week Summer Session, to at least the equivalent of four units of work in a regular term. [See SR 690.] (Am 24 May 68)
- UCSB Example - https://catalog.ucsb.edu/pages/qmROuY1oB6oah1vB7CX2

02.02.01 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

"Section 02.02.01 and 02.02.02: The Graduate Council does not support requiring registration during 2 summer sessions to satisfy one quarter residency requirement. This poses undue financial stress to students and faculty mentors who support the students. Additionally, this option is usually a mechanism to support degree completion by students who have extenuating circumstances and commitments and are unable to return to campus during the academic year. This added hardship will have a negative effect on degree completion."

- **GC's concern regarding the extra cost have been noted. The language has been adjusted to separate "residency" from "graduation" requirements. The regulation clarifies that Master's students are required to complete 3 quarters of residency, with at least 4 units each quarter. If they have completed that minimum, then only 1 unit of Summer Session will be required to graduate in Summer if the student wasn't at UCR all three quarters of the previous year.**

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURSDICTION

- Updated wording to, "Summer sessions are only included in the residence quarter count if enrollment meets the criteria outlined in 02.02.02." This clarifies when Summer can be counted as a quarter of residence.

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Removed gender specific pronouns.
- This regulation is focused on the minimum number of quarters a student must attend to be eligible for a Master's degree.

02.02.02 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

"The Graduate Council does not support requiring registration during 2 summer sessions to satisfy one quarter residency requirement. This poses undue financial stress to students and faculty mentors who support the students. Additionally, this option is usually a mechanism to support degree completion by students who have extenuating circumstances and commitments and are unable to return to campus during the academic year. This added hardship will have a negative effect on degree completion."

- **GC's concern regarding the extra cost have been noted. The language has been adjusted to separate "residency" from "graduation" requirements. The regulation clarifies that Master's students are required to complete 3 quarters of residency, with at least 4 units each quarter. If they have completed that minimum, then only 1 unit of Summer Session will be required to graduate in Summer if the student wasn't at UCR all three quarters of the previous year.**

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- This regulation is focused on how many units per quarter a student is expected to enroll in to retain residency at the University.
- The UCOP regulation regarding summer residency does not match up with our 5 and 10 week summer sessions. That's why there is a difference from the 6- or 8-week summer Sessions mentioned in the UCOP regulation (linked above).
- Students need residency in the summer to complete degree requirements, such as taking their comprehensive exam or submitting the thesis. If they were enrolled in the previous three quarters, summer enrollment is not necessary.
- The Graduate Division's current practice is students enroll in 2 units of the 10-week summer session maintain residency, if needed. This regulation update clarifies the different options available to obtain residency over the summer: 2 units in two 5-week sessions, or 4 units in the 10-week session and brings us in line with the UCOP regulation.
    - Most students are able to graduate over the summer for free.
    - PLEASE NOTE: This change will double the summer session fees for students who must enroll in the summer to maintain residency.
    - PLEASE NOTE: Students in self-supporting programs that charge per unit will also be required to register in 4 units (and pay for them) to maintain residency.
- Added "transfer" to clarify the reference and referred to the transfer of unit regulations.

02.02.03 - Residence Requirement - Graduation

- This regulation is focused on eligibility to graduate, including summer graduation. This has been a point of confusion without a campus regulation to clarify and match the UCOP regulation.

    - PLEASE NOTE: Students in self-supporting programs will have to be enrolled in 4 units (and pay for them) to establish residency and be eligible for graduation for a specific quarter.
- The Graduate Division's current practice is students enroll in 2 units of the 10-week summer session maintain residency. This regulation update clarifies the different options available to obtain residency over the summer: 2 units in two 5-week sessions, or 4 units in the 10-week session.
    - Most students are able to graduate over the summer for free.
    - PLEASE NOTE: This change will double the fees for students who need to enroll in the summer to maintain residency.

02.03 - Language Other Than English Requirement (removed)

11/17/25 RESPONSE TO CHASS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Removing this requirement from the Academic Senate regulations grants programs flexibility and local control. Eliminating the regulation does not prevent individual programs from independently maintaining this standard or implementing a similar one if it aligns with their educational goals.

Instead, removal empowers programs to customize their requirements to meet their unique needs, rather than being restricted by a one-size-fits-all standard. Furthermore, when an individual program develops its own requirement, they gain the ability to offer students a broader range of options for meeting that standard, moving beyond the three specific methods listed in the current regulation. This shift ensures that requirements are both relevant and adaptable.

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Option #1 – Remove the language requirement from senate regulations. This is the preferred option and currently reflected in the side-by-side
    - Justification:
        - Removing this regulation doesn't take away a program's ability to require a language other than English. The regulation already says that programs can decide to require it or not. This change will remove the senate overview regarding how the language requirement must be completed.
        - Current Ph.D. programs with language requirements are Anthropology, Art History, Critical Dance Studies, History, Music, and Philosophy.

- Option #2 – update the language requirement to the below:

02.03 *Language Other Than English Requirement* Each graduate program shall determine whether a reading knowledge of one or more languages other than English shall form an integral part of the student's preparation for the Master's Degree. Satisfaction of this requirement shall be demonstrated, subject to approval of the graduate program, under one of the following options: (a) written or oral examination administered by the graduate program; (b) language other than English placement exam or

assessment conducted by an accredited organization; (c) satisfactory completion of a language course(s) at a specified level; (d) alternative language certification identified by the graduate program and approved by the Graduate Council. Evidence of satisfaction of the requirement will be provided to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies for each student where appropriate.

- Justification:
  - Updated wording to remove "foreign" from the regulation. Replaced with "language other than English."
  - Updated this regulation to reflect previous changes make to the Ph.D. regulation
    - A) added option for oral exam, along with written.
    - B) updated wording to reflect broader options and removed the organization mentioned in the previous regulation because it no longer exists.
    - C) allowed for more than one course to complete the requirement
    - D) alternative certification added
  - Updated to Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.

02.04 - Scholarship Requirements (Removed)

- This information is already covered in the Standards of Scholarship Regulation (GR 01.02).

02.03 - Advancement to Candidacy Requirement (was 02.05)

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

"The Graduate Council needs clarification on the new "requirement" for "reporting the Plan (I or II) and the final requirements that will complete the degree." What is the rationale for the additional new information being requested and to what end? It is now stated that "Application for advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree shall be made at the beginning of the quarter in which it is expected that all requirements for the degree will be completed." This differs from previous language where the stipulation was that course requirements be completed. What impact does this have on students who choose a Thesis plan? The Council recommends language that will provide students who undertake experimental work flexibility to delay completion subject to approval by Graduate Advisor."

- If a student advances for a specific quarter, they are signaling their intention to complete all degree requirements, including a thesis, that quarter. That has always been true. The regulation wording has been expanded beyond "courses" for clarity. If a student does not complete all degree requirements by that quarter deadline they will not be prevented from graduating but will be moved to the next quarter graduation group.

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- "Faculty Graduate Advisor" is a general term used throughout the regulations meant to encompass a position called many different names by various programs. The program handbook can clarify who fills that role in a specific program.

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

All requested updates were completed.

- 2.3 The Committee suggests: “To advance to candidacy for the Master’s degree, students must apply to the Vice Provost...

- 2.3 The clause “specifically...” reads a bit oddly. The Committee suggests something like “with the recommendation of the faculty graduate advisor of the graduate program in which the student is completing their degree.”
- 2.3 The Committee suggests: “Application for advancement to candidacy for the Master’s degree shall be made...”

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Updated to Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.
- Changed “course” to “all” to indicate the application for advancement to candidacy is due at the beginning of the quarter the student plans to graduate and complete all requirements.
- For reference, UCOP Regulations:
    - 682. Except as provided in SR 694, no graduate student will be recommended for any degree except upon completing at least one year of residence at the University of California, devoted to such a course of study as the Graduate Council concerned regards as a proper year's work, and upon complying with such other regulations as may apply. In the case of the Master's degree, the terms and deadline for formal advancement to candidacy in anticipation of the conferring of the degree are set in the rules of the specific graduate programs; exceptions are under the purview of the local Graduate Council. [See SRs 610, 612, 690.] (Am 9 Mar 83) (Am 15 April 2015)
    - 724. A candidate for the degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science must either have obtained a Bachelor's degree from one of the academic colleges of this University, or have pursued successfully a course of study equivalent to that represented by such a degree. The application for admission to candidacy must be made through the Dean of the Graduate Division concerned, and must contain a general statement of the studies upon which candidacy is based.

02.06, 02.06.01, 02.06.02 - Thesis Requirements

- Moved and consolidated in 02.01.01

03 – Requirements for Specific Master’s Degree Objectives and the Status of Candidate in Philosophy

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

All requested updates were completed.

- Suggested clarification of section title: “Requirements for specific Master’s Degree Objectives, and for the status of Candidate in Philosophy.” [the term “Candidate in Philosophy” is no longer in common use and would benefit from clarification].

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Updated this from an MFA only regulation to an overall Master's requirements section, including MFA.
- Added a regulation for the Candidate in Philosophy.

03.01 - Master's Unit Requirements

11/25/2025 RESPONSE TO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Research Courses – 03.01 limits 297/299 to 12 units that can count towards the Master's degree. More units of those courses can be taken by the student, if the course permits. If the MPH only allows 8 units towards elective credits, there won't be a need to allow more than 12 units to be used for the degree.
    - PBHL 299 has a course description of "Research for Thesis or Capstone." That makes it different from the other 299 courses that are specifically for thesis research.
    - Updated wording "None may be in graduate research for the thesis or dissertation (299) unless the course description specifically permits work towards the capstone."
- Concurrent Enrollment Option for Electives
    - Any 292 course can be paired with a 100-level undergraduate course. This regulation is not preventing that option. Lower-division (001-099), studying for exams (291), and professional level courses (300/400) must be approved by Graduate Council to be included in a degree program.

11/25/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

Requested update was completed.

- 3.1 The Committee suggests: "No units from 001-099, 291, 300 or 400 level courses may be used..."

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Plan I and Plan II and universal Master's unit requirements. Overview of the regulations that will follow.
- Added the research unit maximums for Plan I and Plan II.
- Added the specific course restrictions currently enforced (no units from 001-099, 291, 300 and 400 level.)
- Davis example of a similar breakdown - https://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations#502-

03.01.01 - Requirements for Plan I: Master of Arts and Master of Science

- Moved the MA/MS Plan I unit regulations from 02.01.01.
- Added clarity for the 12-unit research limitation and specific course numbers.

03.01.02 - Requirements for Plan II: Master of Arts and Master of Science

- Moved the MA/MS Plan II unit regulations from 02.01.02 to this regulation.
- Added clarity for the 12-unit research limitation.

03.01.03 - Requirements for Master of Business Administration

- Units
    - Listed minimum units for MBA
- Plans
    - Specified which plans can be used
    - Specified if the Plan I requires a final defense
    - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.01.04 - Requirements for Master of Education

3/30/2026 - RESPONSE TO SOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

"Please also note that the SOE Executive Committee requested a specific change to Section 03.01.04 for the M.Ed. program: to remove the requirement to specify the capstone project type, allowing for flexibility so that students can complete either a capstone project or an analytical report, better matching the petitions submitted by their Teacher Education Program students."

- Currently, all approved MED programs offer the analytical report or analytical project as a capstone to the master's degree. The regulation has been updated to include both options.
- If SOE would like to update the Plan II options that MED students have, that would require a separate catalog update approved by the Graduate Council.

ORIGNAL JUSTIFICATION

- Units
    - Listed minimum units for the MED
- Plans
    - Specified which plans can be used
    - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.01.05 - Requirements for Master of Finance

- Units
    - Listed minimum units for the MFIN
- Plans
    - Specified which plans can be used
    - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.01.06 - Requirements for Master of Fine Arts (was 03.01)

11/25/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

Requested update was completed.

- 3.1.6, last line the Committee suggests: "to test the candidate's knowledge of the field" [gender-neutral language]

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Units
  - Listed minimum units for the MFA
- Plans
  - Specified which plans can be used
  - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.01.07 - Requirements for Master of Professional Accountancy

- Units
  - Listed minimum units for the MPAC
  - Specified if 297/299 research units can be used, for how many units
- Plans
  - Specified which plans can be used
  - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.01.08 - Requirements for Master of Public Health

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Integrative Learning Experience – 03.01.08 will not prevent the requirement of PBHL 289 for the MPH degree; this only sets up the UCR requirements as it relates to minimum units, which plans are available, and the capstones allowed to complete the plans. If a change approved by the Graduate Council necessitates an update to these regulations, those changes can be made.

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Units
  - Listed minimum units for the MPH
- Plans
  - Specified which plans can be used
  - Specified if the Plan I requires a final defense
  - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.01.09 - Requirements for Master of Public Policy

- Units

    - Listed minimum units for the MPP
- Plans
    - Specified which plans can be used
    - Explained the capstone for the Plan II

03.02 - Requirements for Candidate in Philosophy

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO CNAS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- The Candidate in Philosophy has always been an option for students who advance to candidacy for the PHD but decline to complete the dissertation. This regulation is placing the information in a more accessible spot, as opposed to referencing systemwide senate regulations. For reference, 14 C.Phil's have been awarded in the past 10 years.

11/25/2025 RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

Requested update was completed.

- 3.2 The Committee suggests reversing the first and second sentences, in order to put the definition first, then the process and the limitations in the 3rd sentence.

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Removed original regulation text under this number. It was referring to the MFA and is now unnecessary because the information is clarified in 03.01.
- Added Candidate in Philosophy information, which has not been included in regulations previously.
    - UCOP Regulation 728 https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/rpart3.html#rpart3-IIch3

04.01 - Residence Definition - Academic

- The definition of "residence" was lacking in the regulations. This explains what that word means in the context of completing a Ph.D. degree.
- Simplifying and separating the information to enhance clarity about the different aspects of residency regulations
- Included the word "academic" to differentiate from California residency.
- UCOP residency regulations (688) - https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/rpart3.html#rpart3-IIch1-1
- UCSB Example - https://catalog.ucsb.edu/pages/qmROuY1oB6oah1vB7CX2

04.01.01 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters

11/17/2025 RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURSIDICTION

- Updated wording to, "Summer sessions are only included in the residence quarter count if enrollment meets the criteria outlined in 04.01.02." This clarifies when Summer can be counted as a quarter of residence.

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Added “minimum quarters” to clarify that this regulation is only focused on the minimum number of quarters a student must attend to be eligible for a Ph.D.

04.01.02 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

“Section 04.02.01 The Graduate Council does not support requiring registration during 2 summer sessions to satisfy one quarter residency requirement. This poses undue financial stress to students and faculty mentors who support the students. Additionally, this option is usually a mechanism to support degree completion by students who have extenuating circumstances and commitments and are unable to return to campus during the academic year. This added hardship will have a negative effect on degree completion.”

- **GC’s concern regarding the extra cost have been noted. The language has been adjusted to separate “residency” from “graduation” requirements. The regulation clarifies that Master’s students are required to complete 3 quarters of residency, with at least 4 units each quarter. If they have completed that minimum, then only 1 unit of Summer Session will be required to graduate in Summer if the student wasn't at UCR all three quarters of the previous year.**

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Regulation focuses on how many units per quarter a student is expected to enroll in to retain residency in the Ph.D. program.
- The UCOP regulation regarding summer residency does not match up with our 5- and 10-week summer Sessions. That’s why there is a difference from the 6- or 8-week summer Sessions mentioned in the UCOP regulation.
- Students need residency in the summer to complete degree requirements, such as taking their written or oral qualifying exams. If they were enrolled in the previous three quarters, summer registration is not necessary.
- The Graduate Division’s current practice is students enroll in 2 units of the 10-week summer session maintain residency, if needed. This regulation update clarifies the different options available to obtain residency over the summer: 2 units in two 5-week sessions, or 4 units in the 10-week session and brings us in line with the UCOP regulation.
    - Most students are able to graduate over the summer for free.
    - PLEASE NOTE: This change will double the fees for students who must enroll in the summer to maintain residency.
- Added “transfer” to clarify the reference and referred to the transfer of unit regulations.

04.01.03 - Residence Requirement - Graduation

3/30/2026 - RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

“New Section 04.01.03: As noted above, Graduate Council does not support the need to enroll in

two 5-week summer sessions or a 10-week summer session. Additionally, if exceptions are indeed allowable as noted by the new provision "Exceptions will only be considered by the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies." The Graduate Council recommends that the students not be held to these restrictions."

- **GC's concern regarding the extra cost have been noted. The language has been adjusted to separate "residency" from "graduation" requirements. The regulation clarifies that Master's students are required to complete 3 quarters of residency, with at least 4 units each quarter. If they have completed that minimum, then only 1 unit of Summer Session will be required to graduate in Summer if the student wasn't at UCR all three quarters of the previous year.**

ORIGINAL JUSTIFICATION

- Added information about eligibility to graduate, including summer graduation. This has been a point of confusion without a campus regulation to clarify and match the UCOP regulation.
- The Graduate Division's current practice is students enroll in 2 units of the 10-week summer session maintain residency. This regulation update clarifies the different options available to obtain residency over the summer: 2 units in two 5-week sessions, or 4 units in the 10-week session.
    - Most students are able to graduate over the summer for free.
    - PLEASE NOTE: This change will double the fees for students who need to enroll in the summer to maintain residency.

04.02 - Language Other Than English Requirement (removed)

- Option #1 – Remove the language requirement from senate regulations. This is the preferred option and currently reflected in the side-by-side
    - Justification:
        - Removing this regulation doesn't take away a program's ability to require a language other than English. The regulation already says that programs can decide to require it or not. The only change will be the senate overview regarding how the requirement can be completed.
        - Current Ph.D. programs with language requirements: Anthropology, Art History, Critical Dance Studies, History, Music, and Philosophy.
- Option #2 - update the language requirement to the below:

04.02 *Language Other Than English Requirement* Each graduate program shall determine whether a reading knowledge of one or more languages other than English shall form an integral part of the student's preparation for the Ph.D. degree. Satisfaction of this requirement shall be demonstrated, subject to approval of the graduate program, under one of the following options: (a) written or oral examination administered by the graduate program; (b) language other than English placement exam or assessment conducted by an accredited organization; (c) satisfactory completion of a language course(s) at a specified level; (d) alternative language certification identified by the graduate program and approved by the Graduate Council. Evidence of

satisfaction of the requirement will be provided to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies for each student where appropriate.

- Justification:
  - Updated wording to remove "foreign" from the regulation. Replaced with "language other than English."
  - Updated this regulation to reflect previous changes make to the Ph.D. regulation
    - A) added option for oral exam, along with written.
    - B) updated wording to reflect broader options and removed the organization mentioned in the previous regulation because it no longer exists.
    - C) allowed for more than one course to complete the requirement
    - D) alternative certification added
  - Updated to Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.

04.02 - Program of Study (was 04.03)

- The final line was removed and replaced with clearer language.
- Added reference to standards of scholarship which says:
  - *Graduate students are expected to prove themselves worthy of the privilege of advanced study and research offered at the university by making acceptable progress towards degree objectives and maintaining the standards of scholarship established by the Graduate Council. Acceptable progress includes, but is not limited to:*
    - *2. Completing course work and other degree requirements in a timely manner. In order to support timely progress, students may take courses outside of their required course work only with approval of the Graduate Advisor*

04.02.01, .4.02.02, 04.02.03

11/17/2025 - RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

- The R&J response references regulations 4.2.1, 4.2.2, and 4.2.3. as relating to the "typically" wording from the residency definition. This update does not include those regulation numbers. It's unclear how to address this comment.

04.05 - Dissertation Committee, Final Defense, Dissertation Formatting and Dissertation Submission Requirements

- Updated title to include all information and match thesis regulations.

04.05.01 - Dissertation and Final Defense Requirements

- Removed “may” so it’s clear all Ph.D. programs require the final defense.
- Adding unanimous approval of the thesis committee members for final defense completion.

04.05.02 - Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements

3/30/2026 RESPONSE TO GRADUATE COUNCIL

“Please justify inclusion of the new language “After the approved dissertation is submitted to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies; it may not be changed or altered.”

- **This is not a new rule. The regulation is being updated to reflect the current standard of practice. This specific language is included to clarify that once a dissertation is submitted and the submission deadline passes, that version is final. Any changes would result in the student’s graduation date moving to a figure quarter.**
- Text has been updated to the following: “Students who miss the submission deadline or require changes after the quarter has concluded will be required to move their graduation conferral to a future term.”

ORIGNAL JUSTIFICATION

- Adding clarifying language to match the thesis regulation.
- Adding unanimous approval of the dissertation committee members for dissertation approval.

04.05.03 - Deadline for Graduation

11/17/2025 UPDATE

- In the process of reviewing and making updates to the previous version, it was determined that in addition to the requirements, a deadline for submission was an important addition.

Approvals:

Approved by the Graduate Dean: 4/30/2026

Approved by the Graduate Council:

Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction finds the wording to be consistent with the code of the Academic Senate:

Received by Executive Council:

UC RIVERSIDE

Academic Senate
Professor Kenneth Barish
Division Chair

March 30, 2026

Lidia Kos, Vice Provost and Dean for Graduate Studies
Graduate Division

Viji Santhakumar, Chair
Graduate Division

Kara Oswood, Director of Academic Affairs
Graduate Division

Re: 2nd Round-Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Dear Colleagues,

The Academic Senate Executive Council discussed the subject proposed changes on March 23, 2026. I am writing to provide comprehensive feedback on the proposal. Though I include a summary here, I encourage your review of the attached memos from committees.

Summary of feedback:

Executive Council suggests that proposals that are submitted by the Graduate Division be clearly noted to avoid confusion during review. I call attention to the header of the proposal, which seemingly indicates that the Graduate Council submitted the proposal. This was confusing to members of Executive Council when reading the critiques submitted by the Graduate Council in response to the proposed changes.

The Graduate Council (GC) does not support the proposed revisions, citing concerns over financial burden and administrative control. In Section 02.01, GC did not support limiting the number of times a student can change degree plans and insisted that plan changes be approved by the program's Graduate Advisor, not the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS). A major point of concern across multiple sections (02.02.01, 02.02.02, 02.02.03, 04.02.01, and 04.01.03) was the new residency requirement. GC strongly opposed requiring registration during two summer sessions to satisfy one quarter of residency as this may create undue financial stress on students and faculty mentors, particularly as this option typically supports degree completion for students with extenuating circumstances, suggesting the added hardship will negatively affect graduation rates.1

Additionally, GC sought clarification and flexibility on several new rules. They requested justification for new language that prevents an approved thesis from being changed or altered after submission (02.01.01) and for the newly introduced deadline for reporting capstone results (02.01.02). Regarding the new Section

02.03, GC would like the rationale behind the requirement to report the degree Plan (I or II) and the final requirements, and recommended language that grants flexibility to thesis students involved in experimental work to delay completion, subject to Graduate Advisor approval.

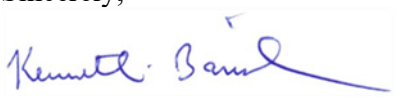
The CHASS Executive Committee appreciated the responsiveness of the second-round review, and while noting concerns about the 02.02.03 Residency Requirement and potential summer graduation fees, the committee expressed support for the proposed changes, recognizing the goal of incentivizing timely graduation.

Please also note that the SOE Executive Committee requested a specific change to Section 03.01.04 for the M.Ed. program: to remove the requirement to specify the capstone project type, allowing for flexibility so that students can complete either a capstone project or an analytical report, better matching the petitions submitted by their Teacher Education Program students.

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction found the changes in alignment with Senate regulations; and the CNAS and BCOE faculty executive committees were either supportive or did no object to the changes as presented in the version of the proposal.

I trust this feedback will be helpful.

Best regards,
Sincerely,



Kenneth Barish
Chair, Academic Senate

Cc: Senate Associate Director Miller (Graduate Council)
Senate Director Cortez

Enclosures

UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

GRADUATE COUNCIL

March 2, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Viji Santhakumar, Chair
Graduate Council

RE: [Campus Review] (Proposed Regulation Change) 2nd Round-Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

In section 02.01 of the proposed revisions to Regulations 02, 03, and 04, the Graduate Council does not support limiting the number of times a student can change plans. Additionally, since there are program-specific considerations, the Graduate Council recommends/insists that these changes should be subject to approval by the program (Graduate Advisor), not the VPDGS.

Section 02.01.01: Please justify inclusion of the new language "After the approved thesis is submitted to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies; it may not be changed or altered."

Section 02.01.02: Please justify newly introduced deadline language "Results of the capstone requirement (pass or fail) must be reported to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies by the day grades for the quarter are due."

Section 02.02.01 and 02.02.02: The Graduate Council does not support requiring registration during 2 summer sessions to satisfy one quarter residency requirement. This poses undue financial stress to students and faculty mentors who support the students. Additionally, this option is usually a mechanism to support degree completion by students who have extenuating circumstances and commitments and are unable to return to campus during the academic year. This added hardship will have a negative effect on degree completion.

Section 02.02.03: As noted above, Graduate Council does not support the need to enroll in two 5-week summer sessions or a 10-week summer session. Additionally, if exceptions are indeed allowable as noted by the new provision "Exceptions will only be considered by the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies." The Graduate Council recommends that the students not be held to these restrictions.

New Section 02.03: The Graduate Council needs clarification on the new "requirement" for "reporting the Plan (I or II) and the final requirements that will complete the degree." What is the rationale for the additional new information being requested and to what end?
It is now stated that "Application for advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree shall be made at the beginning of the quarter in which it is expected that all requirements for the degree will be completed." This differs from previous language where the stipulation was that course requirements be completed. What impact does this have on students who choose a Thesis plan? The Council recommends language that will provide students who undertake experimental work flexibility to delay completion subject to approval by Graduate Advisor.

Section 04.02.01 The Graduate Council does not support requiring registration during 2 summer sessions to satisfy one quarter residency requirement. This poses undue financial stress to students and faculty mentors who support the students. Additionally, this option is usually a mechanism to support degree completion by students who have extenuating circumstances and commitments and are unable to return to campus during the academic year. This added hardship will have a negative effect on degree completion.

New Section 04.01.03: As noted above, Graduate Council does not support the need to enroll in two 5-week summer sessions or a 10-week summer session. Additionally, if exceptions are indeed allowable as noted by the new provision "Exceptions will only be considered by the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies." The Graduate Council recommends that the students not be held to these restrictions.

UC RIVERSIDE

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 14, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Regulation Change: 2nd Round-Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the Proposed Regulation Change: 2nd Round-Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The committee appreciated that the 2nd round review responded to the feedback received by the CHASS Executive Committee, other committees, and stakeholders. The committee noted some concerns about the 02.02.03 Residency Requirement and understood the need to incentivize full enrollment over the academic year, so that graduate students graduate in a timely manner, but were concerned about the fees that students may have to pay if they graduate over the summer. The committee approved the proposed regulation changes.

UC RIVERSIDE | CNAS Executive Committee

January 9th, 2026

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

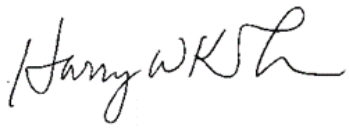
FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Proposed Regulation Change: 2nd Round-Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed regulation changes (2nd round) to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4 at the January 6th meeting and has no objections to the proposed changes.

Sincerely,



Harry Tom, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

January 23, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Evangelos (Vagelis) Christidis, Chair
BCOE Executive Committee

RE: Campus Review--SECOND ROUND, Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, 4 (Requirements for Masters degree and Doctorate)

The BCOE Executive Committee met on January 23rd, 2026. Regarding Campus Review--SECOND ROUND, Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, 4 (Requirements for Masters degree and Doctorate), the committee voted unanimously to approve these changes.