

REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
May 20, 2025

To be adopted:

Proposed changes to the following regulations:

**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

<u>PRESENT:</u>	<u>PROPOSED:</u>
2 – Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration	2 – <u>Requirements for all Master's Degree Objectives</u>
2.1 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.	2.1 <u>Plans for the Master's Degree</u> <u>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 a calendar year from the time of master's advancement to candidacy. If the graduate program offers more than one plan, students may only change plans once prior to master's advancement to candidacy with the approval of the faculty graduate advisor. Once advanced for the master's, changing plans is not permitted.</u>
2.1.1 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 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.	2.1.1 <u>Plan I: Thesis Plan (Final Defense, Thesis Formatting, and Thesis Submission Requirements)</u> <u>A thesis 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 pursuing a Plan I. In its preparation, the candidate is guided by a thesis 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.</u>

<p>2.6 Thesis Requirements</p> <p>2.6.1 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.</p> <p>2.6.2 The thesis for the Master's Degree must be prepared and presented in the form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council.</p>	<p><u>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.</u></p> <p><u>The preparation and presentation of an acceptable thesis, in a form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council, is required of every candidate pursuing a Plan I. Unanimous approval of the document by the thesis committee members is required. After the approved thesis is submitted to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, it may not be changed or altered. Theses are deposited in an open access repository and are freely and openly available to the public (UC-AA-20-0488)</u></p>
<p>2.1.2 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.</p>	<p>2.1.2 Plan II: <u>Capstone Plan</u></p> <p><u>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. Capstone requirements 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 in a timely manner, typically by the day grades for the quarter are due.</u></p>
<p>New</p>	<p>2.2 <u>Residence Definition - Academic</u></p> <p><u>Academic residence in a Master's program is defined by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Number of quarters in the program</u> • <u>Number of units in the quarter</u> • <u>Student status in the quarter of graduation</u>
<p>2.2</p>	<p>2.2.1</p>

<p><u>Residence Requirements-</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters</u> The minimum required period of residence in the University is one academic year (3 quarters) of which <u>2</u> quarters must normally be spent at the University of California, Riverside. <u>Summer sessions are not typically included in the residence quarter count.</u> It is not always possible to complete subject requirements within the minimum period of residence.</p>
<p>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)</p>	<p><u>2.2.2</u> <u>Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter</u> A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as in residence in a regular <u>quarter</u> if <u>the student attends</u> authorized University <u>courses</u> amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of <u>4</u> units or more; or <u>4</u> units of upper division and/or graduate work; <u>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. Residence is required to complete degree requirements.</u> Up to 8 quarter units (or two courses if less than 8 units) of <u>transfer</u> 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. <u>The full transfer of unit regulations can be found in GR05.</u></p>
<p>New</p>	<p><u>2.2.3</u> <u>Residence Requirement - Graduation</u> <u>A candidate is eligible for graduation from the University if they are in residence that quarter. 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 establish residency by enrolling in 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. Exceptions will only be considered</u></p>

	<u>by the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.</u>
<p>2.3 <i>Foreign Language Requirement.</i> 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.</p>	Remove
<p>2.4 <i>Scholarship Requirements.</i> 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)</p>	Remove
<p>2.5 <i>Advancement to Candidacy.</i> 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.</p>	<p><u>2.3</u> <u>Advancement to Candidacy Requirement</u></p> <p>Applications for <u>master's</u> advancement to candidacy must be made <u>to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies</u> with the recommendation of the <u>graduate program, specifically the faculty graduate advisor</u>. The candidacy application must contain a <u>general</u> statement of the studies upon which the application is based, <u>by reporting the Plan (I or II) and the final requirements that will complete the degree</u>. Application for <u>master's</u></p>

	advancement to candidacy shall be made at the beginning of the <u>quarter</u> in which it is expected that <u>all</u> requirements for the degree will be completed.
2.6 - Thesis Requirements	<u>Moved to 2.1.1</u>
2.6.1 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.	<u>Moved to 2.1.1</u>
2.6.2 The thesis for the Master's Degree must be prepared and presented in the form and manner prescribed by the Graduate Council.	<u>Moved to 2.1.1</u>
3 – Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts	3 – Requirements for Specific <u>Master's Degree Objectives and the Candidate in Philosophy (Plans and Units)</u>
New	<p><u>3.1</u> <u>Master's Unit Requirements</u></p> <p><u>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 3.1.1.</u></p> <p><u>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.</u></p> <p><u>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). Programs may reduce this maximum below 12 units.</u></p>

	<u>No units from 001-099, 291, 300 or 400 level may be used to complete the unit minimum for any Master's degree, unless approved by the Graduate Council.</u>
<p>Moved from 2.1.1</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><u>3.1.1</u> <u>Requirements for Plan I: Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Science (M.S.)</u></p> <p>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 <u>24 units</u>, a maximum of 12 may be in <u>directed research or graduate research</u> for the thesis (<u>297/299</u>).</p>
<p>Moved from 2.1.2</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><u>3.1.2</u> <u>Requirements for Plan II: Master of Arts (M.A.) and Master of Science (M.S.)</u></p> <p>Plan II: <u>Capstone</u> 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 <u>of the 36</u> units must be in graduate courses taken at this University; <u>of these 18 units, a maximum of 12 may be in directed research (297).</u></p>
New	<p><u>3.1.3</u> <u>Requirements for Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.)</u></p> <p><u>A minimum of 80 units is required for the M.B.A. degree objective.</u></p> <p><u>Both plans are available for the M.B.A.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plan I (Thesis) final defense not required.</u> • <u>Plan II students complete an industry-based group case analysis as part of the management synthesis course as their capstone.</u>
New	<p><u>3.1.4</u> <u>Requirements for Master of Education (M.Ed.)</u></p>

	<p><u>A minimum of 36 units is required for the M.Ed. degree objective. However, some concentrations within the M.Ed. require more.</u></p> <p><u>Only Plan II is available for the M.Ed.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Students complete an Analytical Report as their capstone.</u>
New	<p><u>3.1.5</u> <u>Requirements for Master of Finance (M.Fin.)</u></p> <p><u>A minimum of 48 units is required for the M.Fin. degree objective.</u></p> <p><u>Only Plan II is available for the M.Fin.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Students complete a Comprehensive Exam as their capstone.</u>
<p>3.1—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 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.</p>	<p><u>3.1.6</u> <u>Requirements for Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)</u></p> <p>A minimum of 54 quarter units of graduate and upper division undergraduate courses in or related to the major subject area <u>are required for the M.F.A degree objective.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 18 of the 54 units must be in graduate courses taken at this University. <p><u>Only Plan II is available for the M.F.A.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>graduate program</u>, is required of every candidate for the degree. • In addition, the <u>graduate program</u> may require any examination which it deems necessary to test the candidate's knowledge of his field.
New	<p><u>3.1.7</u> <u>Requirements for Master of Professional Accountancy (MPAc)</u></p>

	<p><u>A minimum of 48 units is required for the MPAc. degree objective.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Directed research (297) is not permitted to apply towards this degree objective.</u> <p><u>Only Plan II is available for the MPAc.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Students complete a Comprehensive Exam as their capstone.</u>
New	<p><u>3.1.8</u> <u><i>Requirements for Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)</i></u></p> <p><u>A minimum of 68 units is required for the M.P.H. degree objective.</u></p> <p><u>Both plans are available for the M.P.H.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Plan I requires a final defense presentation.</u> • <u>Plan II requires a capstone research project, including a presentation and report.</u>
New	<p><u>3.1.9</u> <u><i>Requirements for Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)</i></u></p> <p><u>A minimum of 72 units is required for the M.P.P. degree objective.</u></p> <p><u>Only Plan II is available for the M.P.P.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Students complete a capstone research project.</u>
<p><u>3.2</u> <u>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.</u></p>	<p><u>3.2</u> <u><i>Requirements for Candidate in Philosophy (C.Phil)</i></u></p> <p><u>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. A Ph.D. student who is advanced to candidacy and has to leave 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.</u></p>

4 Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy	4 Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy
New	<p><u>4.1</u> <u><i>Residence Definition - Academic</i></u></p> <p><u>Academic residence in a Ph.D. program is defined by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Number of quarters in the program</u> • <u>Number of units in the quarter</u> • <u>Student status in the quarter of graduation</u>
<p><u>4.1</u> 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 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)</p>	<p><u>4.1.1</u> <u><i>Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters</i></u></p> <p>The minimum <u>required period of</u> residence in the University is two academic years (6 quarters) <u>of which 1 year</u> must be spent in continuous residence at the University of California, Riverside. <u>Summer sessions are not typically included in the residence quarter count.</u> 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 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.</p>
New	<p><u>4.1.2</u> <u><i>Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter</i></u></p> <p><u>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. Residence is required to complete degree requirements.</u></p>

	<p><u>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.</u></p> <p><u>The full transfer of unit regulations can be found in GR05.</u></p>
New	<p>4.1.3 <u><i>Residence Requirement - Graduation</i></u></p> <p><u>A candidate is only eligible for graduation from the University if they are in residence that quarter. 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 establish residency by enrolling in 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. Exceptions will only be considered by the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies.</u></p>
<p>4.2 <i>Foreign Language Requirement.</i> 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)</p>	Remove

<p>4.3 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.</p>	<p><u>4.2</u> <i>Program of Study</i></p> <p>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. <u>Refer to Standards of Scholarship regulation GR 1.2 for expectations regarding taking courses outside program requirements.</u> <u>Lower-division undergraduate courses may only be taken when absolutely necessary and approved by the faculty graduate advisor in the program.</u></p>
<p>4.5 - Dissertation Committee and Dissertation Requirements</p>	<p>4.5 - Dissertation Committee, <u>Final Defense</u>, <u>Dissertation Formatting</u> and <u>Dissertation Submission</u> Requirements</p>
<p>4.5.1 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 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)</p>	<p>4.5.1 <u><i>Dissertation and Final Defense Requirements</i></u></p> <p>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 <u>doctoral</u> 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. <u>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.</u></p>
<p>4.5.2 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</p>	<p>4.5.2 <u><i>Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements</i></u></p>

are freely and openly available to the public (UC-AA-20-0488) (Am 11 Feb 22)	<u>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. After the approved dissertation is submitted to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, it may not be changed or altered.</u> Dissertations are deposited in an open access repository and are freely and openly available to the public (UC-AA-20-0488)
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Statement of Purpose and Effect

JUSTIFICATION and EXPLANATION OF CHANGES

2 – Requirements for all Master's Degree Objectives

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

2.1 - Plans for the Master's Degree

- 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.

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

- Combined 2.1.1, 2.6, 2.6.1, and 2.6.2 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.

2.1.2 - Plan II: Capstone Plan

- 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 include 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.

2.2 - 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-llch1-1>
- UCSB Example - <https://catalog.ucsb.edu/pages/qmROuY1oB6oah1vB7CX2>

2.2.1 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters

- 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.

2.2.2 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter

- 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.

2.2.3 - 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.

2.3 - Language Other Than English Requirement

- 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:

2.3

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 made 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.

2.4 - Scholarship Requirements (Removed)

- This information is already covered in the Standards of Scholarship Regulation (GR 1.2).

2.3 - Advancement to Candidacy Requirement (was 2.5)

- 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.

2.6, 2.6.1, 2.6.2 - Thesis Requirements

- Moved and consolidated in 2.1.1

3 – Requirements for Specific Master's Degree Objectives and the Candidate in Philosophy

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

3.1 - Master's Unit Requirements

- 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->

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

- Moved the MA/MS Plan I unit regulations from 2.1.1.
- Added clarity for the 12-unit research limitation and specific course numbers.

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

- Moved the MA/MS Plan II unit regulations from 2.1.2 to this regulation.
- Added clarity for the 12-unit research limitation.

3.1.3 - 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

3.1.04 - Requirements for Master of Education

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

3.1.5 - 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

3.1.6 - Requirements for Master of Fine Arts (was 3.1)

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

3.1.7 - 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

3.1.8 - Requirements for Master of Public Health

- 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

3.1.9 - 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

3.2 - Requirements for Candidate in Philosophy

- Removed original regulation text under this number. It was referring to the MFA and is now unnecessary because the information is clarified in 3.1.
- 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-Ilch3>

4.1 - 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-Ilch1-1>
- UCSB Example - <https://catalog.ucsb.edu/pages/qmROuY1oB6oah1vB7CX2>

4.1.1 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Quarters

- 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.

4.1.2 - Residence Requirement – Minimum Units per Quarter

- 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.

4.1.3 - Residence Requirement - Graduation

- 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.

4.2 - Language Other Than English Requirement

- 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:

4.2

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 made 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.

4.2 - Program of Study (was 4.3)

- 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*

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

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

4.5.1 - 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.

4.5.2 - Dissertation Formatting and Submission Requirements

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

Approvals:

Section below is for Senate use only

Approved by the Graduate Council: March 20, 2025

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

Received by Executive Council: