

Proposal to the Academic Senate

Online Undergraduate Course Access for Graduate Students via UC Online Portal April 2026

Introduction

This proposal seeks approval from the Academic Senate to allow currently enrolled graduate students to utilize the existing UC Online portal for the purpose of enrolling in fully online undergraduate (lower and upper division) courses offered at other UC campuses. This initiative aims to address specific academic needs of graduate students, provide efficient access to foundational and preparatory coursework, and leverage existing inter-campus resources to enhance graduate education.

Justification

Graduate students may require supplemental coursework outside the traditional graduate curriculum for several reasons, including:

1. **Remediation/Foundational Knowledge:** Students from different undergraduate majors or non-traditional backgrounds need foundational courses to succeed in graduate work.
2. **Prerequisites for Specialization:** Access to specific, required undergraduate prerequisites (e.g., statistics, lab techniques, programming) not offered or oversubscribed on the home campus.
3. **Efficiency and Flexibility:** Online courses offer scheduling flexibility, avoiding conflicts with graduate duties, and use UC Online's existing infrastructure.
4. **Language Access:** Access to language courses not available at UCR.
5. **UC Online Graduate Integration:** Expanding UC Online to include graduate students is the first phase of a broader roadmap. This integration will eventually enable seamless online graduate course registration and potentially provide the necessary 'toolkit' to move Inter-campus Exchange into the platform, significantly reducing administrative challenges systemwide.

Implementation Details

Incoming Students

Students from other UC Campuses may utilize UC Online to enroll in a fully online UCR undergraduate course. These students will be identified by UCR as graduate level "visitors" in a non-degree objective (ND).

Outgoing Students

UCR students using UC Online to enroll in fully online courses from other UC campuses. Students must meet the eligibility criteria to enroll.

Process Overview (*proposed*)

1. **Identification:** Graduate students from any UC campus identify an undergraduate course via the UC Online portal offerings and begin the approval & registration process.
2. **Approval:**
 - a. Incoming students are permitted to attend without UCR approval if there are seats in the course available for UC Online. They only have to meet their home campus requirements.
 - b. Outgoing students must first meet the UCR [eligibility](#) requirements, which are:
 - i. Completed at least 12 units as a matriculated student at UCR
 - ii. Enrolled in a minimum of 6 units for the current term at UCR
 - iii. Good academic standing ([GR 1.2](#))
 - iv. Has the appropriate academic preparation as determined by the host campus
 - v. Must have fees paid by the fee payment deadline*
 1. *Not currently enforced at the undergraduate level
3. **Registration:**
 - a. The relevant Graduate Academic Affairs staff coordinates with the Registrar's Office to process the enrollment request through the existing UC Online enrollment mechanism, ensuring the student is properly registered for a specific course.
 - b. An advisor in the student's academic program is assigned to approve the request.
4. **Tuition and Fees:**
 - a. Standard UC Online reciprocity agreements regarding tuition will apply. Campus fees typically associated with general enrollment (e.g., student services fees) will not be assessed for the host campus, as the student remains primarily enrolled at their home campus.

Next Steps

Should this proposal be adopted, the UCR Registrar and Graduate Division will collaborate with UC Online to integrate additional columns into the existing tool to effectively distinguish between undergraduate and graduate students. Furthermore, this will necessitate the inclusion of graduate-level advisors within UC Online to handle approval decisions and the addition of Graduate Academic Affairs (GAA) staff to facilitate request review.