



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.