Graduate Student Handbook

2015-2016
On behalf of the faculty and staff of the César E. Chávez Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, we wish to extend a very warm welcome to our fourth cohort of graduate students and best wishes for a successful and challenging graduate student experience.

This handbook contains much of the academic and administrative information you will need while pursuing your graduate work in the department. It brings together information from university policy and department policy. It supplements the UCLA General Catalog and Graduate Division’s website, which should also be consulted for information on rules and procedures.
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Areas of Study

One distinctive feature of our Program is its foundational interdisciplinarity. The program integrates four areas of study that are drawn from the research and curricular strengths of the core and joint faculty of Chicana/o Studies. M.A. and Ph.D. students will be expected to take courses in each of the four areas. These are as follows:

1) Border and Transnational Studies
2) Expressive Arts
3) History, Culture, and Language of the Americas
4) Labor, Law, and Policy Studies

Genders and sexualities, power and inequalities, and the colonial/decolonial/postcolonial paradigms are transversals that intersect the four areas.

Unjust social inequality is the shared scholarly concern of our faculty and a central theme of our graduate program. Our curriculum offers students the tools to become exceptional scholars who are socially engaged, to be able to deconstruct cultural discourses and politics of oppression as well as to offer effective strategies of resistance and empowerment.

A key focus of the curriculum is the metropolitan Los Angeles region, home to the largest Mexican origin community in the country, as well as to several other Latino groups. The Chávez department is well placed to draw from this large and diverse population—its social experiences, historical realities, cultural and linguistic processes, and literary and artistic productions.

Important Contact Information

➢ Email
All graduate students are entitled to a free email account. Every student is expected to establish and regularly monitor his or her own UCLA email account for official communications. Important notices will be sent to your UCLA e-mail account from the Office of Graduate Studies, the department, and other campus entities. You will be considered notified when such official emails are sent to your UCLA email account.

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As the Department Graduate Advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies plays a key role in the academic life of students and in the functions of Graduate Division. The Director of the Graduate Program and the Student Advisor Officer assist students with planning their program of study and guide them toward the fulfillment of the program requirements. Students are expected to meet with the graduate advisor at least once a quarter, usually little before the quarter starts to have their enrollment plan approved. All students must have their course schedules approved by the graduate adviser prior to enrolling. Graduate advisers also formally approves student’s program of study, advise them on advancement to candidacy for higher degrees, consider their request for a Leave of Absence and petitions to add or drop courses, to nominate another UC campus faculty as the outside member of their M.A. or Ph.D. committees, to apply for readmission, etc. In some of these instances, the Graduate Advisor, in consultation with the Graduate Committee and/or the student’s academic advisor, must judge whether the student’s request is in order, is in his or her own best interest, and is feasible under existing regulations. The student affairs officer also provides assistance with policy and procedure.

Academic Student Adviser. Students should select their faculty advisor and mentor by the end of the second year. The faculty advisor provides guidance to the students to maximize their education and academic performance, and in making critical decisions regarding their careers. The faculty advisor serve as the students’ mentor to successfully carry out their research projects, complete their M.A. thesis, prepare for the Qualifying exams, and guide them through the completion of the doctoral dissertation. The faculty advisor also serves as the chair of the student’s M.A. thesis and Doctoral Committees.

Full-Time Graduate Program

The department expects the graduate students to be enrolled full time, except in special circumstances as described below. UCLA officially requires 12 unit (normally three courses) per term for graduate students to be a full time student prior to their doctoral
candidacy. Eight units per term are required for a doctoral candidate to be a full time student.

Teaching assistants (TAs) are required to be registered and enrolled in at least twelve-quarter units throughout their appointments. Those assistants who take a leave of absence or withdraw terminate their appointments. Course 375 for TAs, and independent studies at the 500- may be counted toward the eight or twelve-unit load.

Also students receiving Graduate Division Fellowship awards (e.g. Cota-Robles, Graduate Research Mentorship, Dissertation Year Fellowship, etc.) are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units per term for the duration of the their fellowship, both before and after advancing to candidacy. The twelve units required per quarter may include, among other courses, those in the 500 series (individual study or research).

Although UCLA is a full-time educational institution, it recognizes the need for part-time study in special circumstances. Approval of less than full-time enrollment is at the discretion of the Department. If a student has family or employment responsibilities or health problems that preclude full-time enrollment, the student should contact the departmental graduate adviser to discuss the possibility of an exception. (“Standards and Procedures for Graduate Studies at UCLA, page 25)

Continuous Enrollment

Students must be continuously registered and enrolled unless they are on an approved leave of absence (see below). Once advanced to candidacy the student must be enrolled in 8 units or 12 units for TAs and Graduate Division fellowship recipients. It is expected that students enroll in classes and drop and add courses by the end of the 2nd week of the quarter. Any late enrollments must be completed by the end of the 3rd week of the quarter. It is necessary to maintain full-time enrollment throughout the quarter in order to protect
the employment benefits and to meet the terms of any financial awards.

**Foreign Language Requirement**

The completion of a Ph.D. in Chicana and Chicano Studies requires, at minimum, reading fluency in Spanish. Students may satisfy the language requirement in one of the following ways: 1) by passing a level 5 oral and written exam administered by the Spanish and Portuguese Department. 2) By completing, with a passing grade in each term, two years of coursework in the target language at the University level. If the coursework consists of Spanish language courses, they should be above level 5. 3) By passing a translation examination administered by the department. Students are given two hours to take the exam, and are permitted the use of a dictionary. Exams will also be offered once a year, in Fall quarter. Students should inform the Graduate Program Director or the Student Advisor Officer of their intention to take the translation exam, and an exam date will be scheduled (usually between the fourth and sixth week of classes).

The foreign language requirement is typically completed in the first year of graduate study, but must be completed before advancement to candidacy.

**Course Requirements**

**General Required Courses**

series/numbers: 100 series:

undergraduate upper division courses

200 series: graduate courses and seminars

300 series: Graduate courses numbered 300-399 are highly specialized teacher-training courses (i.e. 375), which are not applicable toward University minimum requirements for graduate degrees.

400 series: Graduate courses numbered 400-499 are designed for professional programs leading to graduate degrees other than the M.A., M.S., and Ph.D.
**500 series:** Courses numbered in the 500 series are directed individual study or research at the graduate level. Graduate individual study or research courses are numbered as follows:
- **596** (directed individual study or research);
- **597** (preparation for the master’s comprehensive examination or doctoral qualifying examination);
- **598** (master’s thesis research and preparation);
- **599** (doctoral dissertation research and preparation).

Note: Courses numbered 501 are not individual study and research but are cooperative programs held in conjunction with USC.

**Master’s Degree**

The M.A. degree in Chicana/o Studies is not a stand-alone, terminal degree. It is a requirement to fulfill in order to obtain a Ph.D. At the MA level, a student must successfully complete a certain set of courses in the different areas of study, in addition to successfully executing a thesis.

Students admitted to the Ph.D. program without an M.A. degree will follow Plan A, as described below. Students entering the Ph.D. program with an approved M.A. thesis should follow Plan B (see under Doctoral Degree).

**Plan A**

**Course Requirements**

Students must successfully complete a total of 40 units (normally ten courses), completed while in graduate status and taken for a letter grade with a minimum of 3.0 grade-point average. Of the 40 units, at least 32 must be completed at the graduate level. Up to 8 units of upper division undergraduate courses may be applied to the 40-unit requirement. One 500-series course (up to four units) may be applied toward the 40-unit requirement.
* Students entering the Program with a Bachelors degree from another discipline may be required to take additional courses to assure competency in the field of Chicana and Chicano Studies.

**Required courses:**

- Chicana/o Studies 200, 201 and 202 (12 units) are required and should be taken within the first two years.

Students are also required to take:

- One course in each area of study for a total of four courses (16 units), one of which must be a methodology course.

The interdisciplinary areas of study are:

1) Border and transnational studies; 2) Expressive arts; 3) History, culture, and language of the Americas; and 4) Labor, law, and policy studies.

Genders and sexualities, power and inequalities, and the colonial/decolonial/postcolonial are transversals that intersect the four areas.

- Two elective courses (8 units), of which both may be undergraduate upper division courses or taken outside the department.

- Four units of Chicana/o Studies 598 (master's thesis research) or 596 (Directed Individual Studies or Research) in lieu of one elective.

Students may take up to a maximum of 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 598, and up to a maximum of 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 596 in a single Academic Year. However, students may not take more than one Chicana/o Studies 596 per quarter before the M.A. degree requirements are completed.

When working as Teaching Assistants (TAs), students may enroll in Chicana/o Studies 495 when they receive their first teaching appointment and must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 375 each quarter in which they hold a
teaching appointment. Neither of these courses may be counted toward the degree requirements.

The minimum course load is 12 units per quarter. Students must be continuously registered and enrolled unless they are on an approved leave of absence (see below).

Master’s Thesis
Students will complete the M.A. degree by writing an original interdisciplinary research paper, critical reflection, or creative portfolio that integrates knowledge learned in their graduate coursework.

According to Standards and Procedures for Graduate Studies at UCLA: “every master’s degree program that includes a thesis plan requires the completion of an approved thesis that demonstrates the student’s ability to perform original, independent research. Before beginning work on the thesis, the student obtains approval of the subject and general plan from the thesis committee.” (8)

The M.A. thesis should be submitted by Spring quarter of their second year, but no later than the seventh quarter (normally Fall quarter of the third year). Students must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 598 (M.A. Thesis Research) under the guidance of their faculty advisor to produce the thesis. (See M.A. thesis Preparation Guidelines, Appendix 1)

The thesis is evaluated on a pass/no pass basis.

* All thesis plan students need to formally nominate their M.A. committee, submit advancement to candidacy paperwork, and follow the filing procedures.

M.A. Committee
The thesis committee consisting of three faculty: the student’s faculty advisor, another ladder-ranked faculty form the list of core or jointly-appointed faculty in the department, and an outside reader must be nominated by the department no later than Fall Quarter of the student’s second year.
Advance to Candidacy
According to Graduate Division Standards and Procedures, "It is the student’s responsibility to file advancement to candidacy forms for the master’s degree in the major department no later than the second week of the quarter in which the student expects the award of the degree" (For further details, see Standards and Procedures, p.7-8). Advancement to Candidacy Form can be found in the Graduate Division main web page (under “Forms and Publications”, http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/forms.asp).

*The ATC form should be approved by the chair or authorized departmental advisor.

Thesis Formatting and Filing
The final manuscript of your thesis should be formatted and filed according to Graduate Division regulations. For the M.A. thesis-filing deadline, see the Registrar’s Calendar online. For guidance in the final preparation of the manuscript, you should consult Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Filing Guide, available at http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/thesisguide.pdf.

Orientation meetings on manuscript preparation and filing procedures are conducted by the Graduate Division at the beginning of each quarter (see the Registrar’s Calendar online).

Time-to-degree
The normative time to degree for full-time students is seven quarters, and the maximum time to degree is seven quarters (See M.A. and Ph.D. Timeline chart, Appendix 2).

* Students who already have a Master’s degree in Chicana and Chicano Studies or in a related field must submit their Master’s thesis once admitted to the program. The Department’s Graduate Committee will evaluate the submitted material to determine whether or not it fulfills the M.A. requirements of the program. If the Master’s thesis is deemed satisfactory, the student will be allowed to enter the Ph.D. program under Plan B.
(see Doctoral Degree requirements below). The material should be submitted no later than the third week of the Fall Quarter of their first year.

**Doctoral Degree**

**Advising/Doctoral Committee**

Each entering student is assigned to the Director of Graduate Studies, who takes primary responsibility for academic advising in the first year. A permanent faculty advisor is selected in the second year. After completing coursework for the Ph.D. and the language requirement, but before taking the University Oral Qualifying Examination, the chair of the department, after consultation with the student, nominates a four-person doctoral committee. Upon nomination by the chair of the department, Doctoral committees are appointed by the Dean of the Graduate Division (See Standards and Procedures for more details.)

The doctoral committee is responsible for supervision, review, and approval of the doctoral dissertation. The student affairs officer provides assistance with policy and procedure.

**Course Requirements**

**Plan A**

For students under Plan A, who have completed all the course requirements for the M.A. as described above, 24 additional units (normally six graduate courses) will be required to complete the Ph.D. These 24 units should provide more depth to the student’s preparation in the field and research agenda.

**Plan B**

Students entering the Ph.D. program with an approved M.A. thesis are expected to take a minimum of 44 units (regularly 11 courses) as follows:

- One course in each area of study (16 units), one of which must be a methodology course.
- Four elective courses (16 units), up to two may be taken outside the department, and only one of which may be an upper division course.

Units taken in the 500-series—Chicana/o Studies 596 (Directed Individual Studies or Research), Chicana/o Studies 597 (Preparation for Qualifying Exams) or Chicana/o Studies 599 (doctoral dissertation research)—may not be applied toward course requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

Students may not take more than 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 597, and up to a maximum of 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 596 per academic year before the language requirement and the Ph.D. coursework requirement is completed.

The minimum course load is 12 units per quarter. Students must be continuously registered and enrolled unless they are on an approved leave of absence.

**Teaching Experience**

All doctoral students are expected to fulfill at least one year of teaching experience as teaching assistants in the department. New Teaching Assistants (TAs) must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 495 when they receive their first teaching appointment. In the following quarters, TAs may enroll in Chicana/o Studies 375 each quarter in which they hold a teaching appointment to fulfill unit requirements. Neither of these courses may be counted toward the degree requirements.

**Written and Oral Qualifying Examinations**

To become a doctoral candidate, students must provide evidence of competency in the field by passing a series of written and oral examinations. Academic Senate regulations require all
doctoral students to complete and pass University written and oral qualifying examinations prior to doctoral
advancement to candidacy. Also, under UCLA faculty Senate regulations the University UCLA oral qualifying examination is open only to the student and appointed members of the doctoral committee.

In addition to University requirements, some graduate programs (like ours) have additional pre-candidacy examination requirements. What follows in this section is how students are required to fulfill all of these requirements for this doctoral program.

The Qualifying Examinations consist of written and oral sections. All coursework and language requirements must be completed before the examination takes place. Prior to taking the exams, an examination committee should be formed. In consultation with the dissertation advisor, students choose two other committee members, one of which could be a faculty who holds a joint appointment with the department, and whose interests and fields of expertise support research in the proposed area of the dissertation. These three department faculty members constitute the departmental examination committee, which is responsible for administering the Written Qualifying Exams. The examination committee should be constituted not later than the quarter preceding that in which the examination is given.

The Written Qualifying Examination is a two-part exam based on the student’s coursework, research interests, and familiarity with the field. Part One will be a literature review based on a reading list of 40-50 texts drawn up by the student in consultation with his/her dissertation advisor (see Appendix 2). All reading lists and the questions for the written examination must be shared with the examination committee and the department’s Graduate Committee by the end of the quarter preceding that in which the examination is given.

Part Two will be a paper in response to a question related to the student’s dissertation research; it will
require a theoretical grounding in the student’s areas of specialization, an ability to define and apply interdisciplinary methodology, and a well-supported argument. Students will have two weeks to complete their written qualifying exam.

Students may enroll in up to 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 597 (examination preparation) to help prepare for the exam. Students who fail either part of the written qualifying examination may retake it once without petition, as early as the following quarter. Students who fail the written qualifying examination a second time will not advance to doctoral candidacy and will be dismissed from the Program.

The University Oral Qualifying Examination is required after completion of the Written Qualifying Examination, completion of the dissertation proposal, and appointment of a doctoral committee in accord with University regulations. Students are required to take the University Oral Qualifying Examination no later than Spring of the fourth year. The four-member doctoral committee is responsible for administering the examination. The oral examination is approximately two hours in length and is focused on the student’s dissertation proposal. The University Oral Qualifying Examination is open only to the members of the doctoral committee and the student. (For more details, see “Doctoral Qualifying Examination Guidelines,” Appendix 3).

**Advancement to Candidacy (ATC)**

Students are advanced to candidacy and awarded the Candidate in Philosophy degree (C.Phil.) upon successful completion of the written and oral qualifying examinations.

Students who have advanced to candidacy should provide a copy of their dissertation prospectus to the SAO for inclusion in their files. Each subsequent year following advancement to candidacy, students should
submit a dissertation project update that will be added to your dossier.

Normative Time to Advance to Candidacy is 12 quarters.

**Doctoral Dissertation**

The doctoral degree program requires the candidate to complete a dissertation (previously approved by the doctoral committee). This dissertation is evidence of the candidate’s ability to perform original, independent research and constitutes a distinct contribution to knowledge in his or her principal field of study.

For guidance in the final preparation of the manuscript, the student should consult *Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Filing Guide*, available at [www.grad.ucla.edu/publications.asp](http://www.grad.ucla.edu/publications.asp).

Students are encouraged to attend one of the orientation meetings on manuscript preparation and filing procedures that are conducted by the Graduate Division at the beginning of each quarter.

If a student is conducting research for the purpose of fulfilling the master’s or doctoral degree requirements, the student should be aware that if the research will entail the use of human subjects (medical procedures, questionnaires, interviews, etc.), in addition to receiving the approval of the thesis committee, the student must also seek the approval of the appropriate Human Subject Protection Committee (HSPC) at UCLA, prior to the initiation of the research project. Additional information regarding application procedures may be obtained from the HSPC - General Campus, (310) 825-7122.

**Final Oral Examination (Defense of Dissertation)** No public defense of the dissertation is required, but the doctoral committee, in conjunction with the student,
**Thesis/Dissertation Filing**

All Thesis and Dissertation filings are done electronically. You will find all the required information in the Graduate Division webpage at [http://www.grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/index.html](http://www.grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/index.html)

**Time-to-Degree**

Full-time graduate students should normally complete the requirements for the Ph.D. degree within five years of completion of the requirements for the master's degree, with the total time from admission to graduate status until completion of the Ph.D. being seven years (21 quarters). Maximum Time To Degree is 24 quarters.

**Evaluation of Students’ Academic Progress**

The monitoring of students’ academic progress occurs at the departmental level so that student, faculty/mentor, and program-wide problems are discovered and addressed early. The students’ progress evaluation is usually conducted in the Fall quarter of each Academic Year.

A degree-seeking student is in good academic standing if he or she: 1) meets the standards of quality of his or her academic program and the Graduate School; 2) makes satisfactory progress toward completion of degree requirements within the established time limit; 3) fulfills the Graduate School’s requirement regarding continuous registration; and 4) fulfills the Graduate School’s requirement regarding grade-point average. Students who are not in good academic standing are not eligible to receive a degree and cannot hold a merit award. (For more information, see Appendix 4, “Guidelines for Student’s Progress Assessment,” and Appendix 5, “Graduate Students Self Report and Self Assessment”.)
“Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA”
http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spfgs.pdf

This document should be your “bible” while in graduate studies at UCLA.

UC Intercampus Exchange Program

The UC Intercampus Exchange Program is for graduate students who seek contact with distinguished faculty, scholars, fields of study, and resources not available on her or his home campus.

Eligibility

• Complete at least one quarter of study prior to beginning the exchange.
• Have a grade-point average of 3.0 or above.
• Be in a state-supported program, not a special-fee or self-supported program. Unless specifically restricted, fellowship recipients may participate.

For Application Instructions and additional information see Standards and Procedures, and Graduate Division website.

Transfer of Credit

Through petition, courses completed in graduate status on other UC campuses may apply to master’s programs at UCLA, provided they were not used toward a previous degree. Such courses may fulfill no more than one-half of the total course requirements, one-half of the graduate course requirement, and one-third of the academic residence requirement.

A maximum of two courses completed with a minimum grade of ‘B’ in graduate status at institutions other than UC may apply to UCLA master’s programs. The two courses would constitute the equivalent of eight-quarter units or five semester units. They may not fulfill the minimum five-graduate-course requirement or the academic residence requirement. The Graduate Division and the Chávez department must approve the student’s petition for transfer of credit.

Otherwise other courses may not be applied toward a UCLA graduate degree. Thus, course taken for any other degree previously awarded at UCLA or another institution, and courses taken before the award of the bachelor’s degree may not be applied toward a graduate degree at UCLA.

Correspondence courses are not applicable to graduate degrees.

Employment and Degree Programs

University policy governing the employment of graduate students regards the individual as primarily a student rather than an employee, and emphasizes the need for the student to make timely progress toward the degree. The total length of service rendered in any one or any combination of the following titles may not exceed four years (12 quarters): Reader on annual stipend, Teaching Assistant, Teaching Fellow, and/or Associate. Under special circumstances, the Chancellor, upon recommendation of the department chair and the dean of the school or college, may authorize a longer period, but in no case for more than six years.

TA Requirements and Regulations

A student teacher appointment is for one academic year or less, and is self terminating unless the appointee is otherwise notified.

Appointment to the title of Teaching Assistant or Teaching Fellow may not exceed 50 percent time employment during the academic year, nor may such appointment in combination with other employment within the University exceed half-time. Those employed halftime should be expected to devote, during instructional and
examination periods, sixteen to twenty
hours per week to such work including time spent in preparation, classroom and laboratory teaching, office consultation, and reading student papers (APM – 410 Student Teachers). Exception to this rule may be made only by special approval of the individual case by the Chancellor, upon recommendation of the department chair and the dean of the school or college.

All new TAs must complete the TA training course, CCS 495, prior to or concurrent with their first appointment or concurrent with it. The course is only offered in the Fall quarter each year, so to work as a TA at any time during the year, you must take the TA training course in the Fall. In addition, students whose native language is not English must pass an oral English (SPEAK) exam before their first appointment to a TAship. Failure to take and pass the exam will result in the loss of the appointment.

You may hold multiple fellowship awards or a combination of a TAship and fellowship, provided total funding equals no more than the equivalent of 5 quarters of TAship (at 50% time) and provided the agency granting the fellowship allows you to work or accept additional funds.

If an eligible TA decides to decline the appointment, he or she should do so as early as possible. Alternates are then appointed.

TAs at UCLA are represented by a union. TA appointments, contracts, and any possible disciplinary action (such as removal from a TA position for failure to perform the contracted functions) conform the union guidelines. (See Appendix 6)

**TA Summer Positions**

Our department regularly offers a limited number of TA positions during Summer. Eligible graduate students seeking additional financial support during the summer months are welcome to apply. To be eligible students must:
☐ Be in good academic standing (3.5 or above GPA)

☐ Not have outstanding Incomplete grades.

☐ Not have been awarded the Dean’s Award or the GSRM fellowship for the Summer in question.

Preference will be given to the students who have not been TAs the previous Summer.

Preference will be given to those students who have at least one-year experience as a TA in our department.

**Travel Financial Support**

This is a merit-based financial support. Whenever funds are available, students who have a GPA of 3.5 or above, and should not have any outstanding Incomplete grade. Students may apply to travel funds for only one conference per Academic Year. To apply, students should complete the “Student Petition Form” and submit it to the department MSO (7345 Bunche Hall) along with the official acceptance of the paper by the conference organizers and an abstract of the paper to be presented.

**Leaves of Absence**

*Eligibility*

On recommendation of the department, a leave of absence may be granted by the Graduate Division to continuing graduate students in good standing (3.0 GPA), who have completed at least one quarter in graduate status at UCLA. Request for Leave of Absence forms are available on the Graduate Division website.

*Types and Criteria*

A student may request a leave of absence for the following reasons: parental obligation, other family obligation (e.g., parenting), medical, military, financial hardship, and outside employment. Per University requirements including continuous registration, a
student who is conducting research or thesis or dissertation preparation and writing is not eligible for a leave of absence, but may qualify for in absentia registration (see below).

International students on non-immigrant visas (F-1 or J-1) may not remain in the United States while on a leave of absence unless: (1) they have finished all coursework and have advanced to candidacy.

Duration
A leave is granted for a period of one to three quarters at the request of the student, on the recommendation of the department involved, and with the approval of the Graduate Division. No more than three quarters of leave of absence are permissible for a graduate student during the course of her or his enrollment at UCLA. Extensions may be approved in exceptional circumstances.

Note: By University policies, only persons who are registered are entitled to use of University facilities (with the exception of the library). If the student anticipates using 12 or more hours of University facilities and/or faculty time (excluding the library) in any quarter, the student is not eligible for a leave of absence or an extension of a leave of absence and must register. All usages of faculty time are to be considered, including reading and suggesting revisions to drafts of theses and dissertations.

(For more detailed information on “Leaves of Absence” policies, application forms and FAQ, see the Graduate Division webpage at http://www.grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/loa.htm )

In-Absentia Registration
The University of California Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration allows graduate students to take research or coursework leaves outside of California and remain enrolled in the University while paying 15 percent of combined Tuition and Student Services Fees. In Absentia Registration is for the academic year only.

For petition In-Absentia Registration form go to www.grad.ucla.edu/gss/library/abspetition.pdf

Incomplete Grades
The grade ‘I’ (Incomplete) is assigned when a student’s work is of passing quality but is incomplete for good cause. A student is entitled to remove the Incomplete and to receive unit credit and grade points provided the student satisfactorily completes the work of the course by the end of the next full quarter that the student is in academic residence. It is not necessary for a student to be registered at the time the work for the course is completed.

If the work is not completed by the end of the next quarter of residence, the ‘I’ grade will automatically be replaced with the grade ‘F’ or ‘U’ (Unsatisfactory) as appropriate. The work for a course for which the ‘I’ grade has lapsed to an ‘F’ or ‘U’ may, with the permission of the instructor, be completed in a subsequent quarter and the appropriate earned grade assigned. Until that time, however, the ‘F’ or ‘U’ grade appears on the record and the ‘F’ is calculated in the grade-point average (for additional information see Standards and Procedures).

Termination of Graduate Study and Appeal of Termination

University policy
A student who fails to meet the above requirements may be recommended for termination of graduate study. A graduate student may be disqualified from continuing in the graduate program for a variety of reasons. The most common is failure to maintain the minimum cumulative grade point average (3.5) required by the Department to remain in good standing. Other examples include failure of examinations, lack of timely progress toward
the degree
and poor performance in core courses. Probationary students (those with cumulative grade point averages below 3.00) are subject to immediate dismissal upon the recommendation of their department. University guidelines governing termination of graduate students, including the appeal procedure, are outlined in *Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA*.

**Special departmental or program policy**

A recommendation for termination is made by the student the Director for Graduate Studies after a vote of the department’s faculty. Before the recommendation is sent to the Graduate Division, a student is notified in writing and given two weeks to respond in writing to the Chair. An appeal is reviewed by the department's faculty, which makes the final departmental recommendation to the Graduate Division.

**Withdrawal**

Withdrawing from the University means discontinuing attendance in all courses in which students are enrolled.

If a registered student leaves the University before the end of the quarter without formally withdrawing, the student will receive a grade of ‘F’ or, where appropriate, ‘U’ (Unsatisfactory) in each course in which the student is enrolled. All withdrawals must be requested by the last day of instruction of the quarter in which the withdrawal is to begin. Deadlines are published for each quarter in the Registrar’s Office Calendar.

A student who withdraws or breaks registration without filing for a Leave of Absence is not guaranteed readmission. University requirements state that unless granted a formal leave of absence, continuing graduate students who fail to register are considered to have withdrawn from the University and must compete for readmission with all other applicants.
As part of our commitment to graduate education, UCLA provides substantial support for its graduate students through fellowships, traineeships, and teaching and research assistantships.

Financial support information and application forms for campus-wide fellowship programs are available at http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/stusup.htm
http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/grpinst.htm

Support based solely on financial need is provided, in the form of loans, grants, and—on a limited basis—work-study employment, from the Financial Aid Office. Students must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office at A-129 Murphy Hall, (310) 206-0400.

Support based on merit is available in the form of fellowships, traineeships, teaching assistantships, and graduate student researcher positions. These awards are open to all students—U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and international students—who have demonstrated high academic achievement. For more information, refer to the Financial Support for Entering or Continuing Students on the Graduate Division website at http://www.grad.ucla.edu/asis/entsup/finsup.htm

**UCLA Fellowships & Grants:**

Merit-based awards provide stipends in varying amounts and may include fees and nonresident tuition. Awards are competitive and open to all graduate students. For a complete list of UCLA Fellowships for continuing students see http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/contspprt.pdf

**Extramural Fellowships**

Students are strongly encouraged to apply for extramural funding. It is a merit-based support provided
by national, international or private foundations. Many organizations accept applications up to a year before acceptance into a graduate program. An excellent source to look for extramural fellowships for graduates and postdoctoral students is GRAPES database. http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/grpinst.htm#search

Financial Aid: Funding based on financial need is available only to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Financial aid includes loans and work-study awards.

Financial Aid Office

http://www.fao.ucla.edu

Teaching & Research Assistantships
Teaching Assistantships provide experience in teaching undergraduates with faculty supervision. Graduate Student Researcher positions provide experience working on faculty-supervised research projects. Each department selects awardees for teaching assistantships, graduate student research positions, registration tuition grants and nonresident supplemental tuition fellowships. Students are also advised to apply to other forms of university support, such as, Graduate Research Mentorship, Graduate Research Summer Mentorship and Dissertation Year Fellowships. See the SAO or the Graduate Program Director for more information.

*To keep in mind: If you are awarded a Dissertation Year Fellowship by the university, it is expected that you will finish your dissertation during the fellowship year. Once you accept a DYF, you are ineligible to receive any future funding from the university or departmental sources (you can, of course, receive outside funding after a DYF).

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program
This Program is designed to provide financial support for doctoral students in the humanities, social sciences and other disciplines where students have little
opportunity for academic apprentice appointments or other university funding relevant to their graduate training during the summer months. A specific objective of the program is to promote opportunities for students to work closely with a faculty mentor in developing a paper for presentation at an academic conference and/or for publication.

For Applications deadlines and requirements, see www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/sfap/srmintro.htm#Apply

Assists individuals who are undergoing advanced training in modern foreign languages and related area studies. For further information visit the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship page http://www.grad.ucla.edu/asis/entsup/titlevi.htm

**Concurrent Awards/Fellowships**

Recipients offered other awards (e.g., from extramural agencies or department allocations) in addition to the offer of Graduate Division-administered fellowships may, at the Graduate Division’s or department’s discretion, be required to relinquish all or part of the Graduate Division-administered award. In most cases a student may not hold multiple academic-year stipends from the Graduate Division or from the Graduate Division and another source that total more than a specified amount. For example, in 2014-15, the maximum allowable support from all merit-based sources for a single person living off campus is $10,752 for the summer (July through September) and $35,584 for the academic year (October through June). Also, a student may not receive a combination of fee/tuition awards that total more than the cost of fees/tuition. For more information,
NOTE: The IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board consider graduate fellowships as taxable income. For detailed information and forms go to http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/library/taxinfous.htm

ACADEMIC RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center
http://www.chicano.ucla.edu

UCLA Latin American Center
http://www.international.ucla.edu/lai/

UCLA Latino Home-School Research Project
http://cultureandhealth.ucla.edu/latinohsproj/

Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture
http://www.cesla.med.ucla.edu

Midwest Consortium for Latino Research
http://www.indigenouspeople.net/mclcr/

Other Important Career Resource Centers

  The UCLA Career Center offers job listings, campus interviews, workshops, and career counseling. Special services for graduate students, such as PhD workshops and graduate students’ drop-in support group, are available.

- Graduate Students Association. The UCLA Graduate Students Association was established to provide for the representation of graduate students and the promotion of graduate students’ interests at UCLA and within the University of California. Their web site has information on GSA structures, activities, and resources.

- Graduate Student Resource Center
  http://gsrc.ucla.edu

The UCLA Graduate Student Resource Center is a one-stop resource, referral and information center for graduate students. The Graduate Student Resource Center offers programs and workshops on a variety of topics, drop-in counseling, a web and in-house resource library, meeting and study space, and the opportunity for social interaction. More information can be found on their web site.

- Graduate Writing Center
  http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/
  The Graduate Writing Center offers free writing consultation to graduate and professional school students at all levels and in all disciplines, as well as writing workshops on a variety of topics. Meet with a trained and experienced graduate writing consultant to work on writing issues ranging from style and argumentation to grammar and syntax. The graduate writing consultants will work with you to develop your writing confidence and your writing skills.

- Grant Proposal Advising
  http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/infoserv/fcltycon.htm
  The program is designed to provide experienced professional assistance to encourage the submission and facilitate the success of individual proposals for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. These fellowships are offered by a variety of agencies including the National Science Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Ford Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Social Sciences Research Council, and Fulbright Fellowship Programs. The awards provided by these agencies are merit-based, competitive and often devised for multi-year study programs. Successful endeavors are prestigious and widely recognized as indicators of scholarly potential and accomplishment.
Chicana/o and Latina/o Studies
Programs, Departments, and

- Claremont McKenna College: Department of Chicano Studies
- Cornell University: Latino Studies Program
- The National Hispanic University
- Rutgers University: Department of Puerto Rican and Hispanic Caribbean Studies
- The University of Arizona: Mexican American Studies Minor
- San Diego State University: Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies
- University of Texas El Paso: Chicana/o Studies Program
- University of California, Berkeley: Department of Ethnic Studies
- University of California, Davis: Chicana/o Studies Program
- University of California, Irvine: Chicano/Latino Studies Program
- University of California, Riverside: Department of Ethnic Studies
- University of California, San Diego: Department of Ethnic Studies
- University of California, Santa Barbara: Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies
- University of California, Santa Cruz: Latin American and Latino Studies.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
CAPS is a multi-disciplinary mental health center for the UCLA community. Psychologists, clinical social workers, and psychiatrists are available, offering individual and group counseling and psychotherapy to students; consultation, outreach, prevention, and education to students; and training programs for graduates in the mental health professions. Counseling and Psychological Services maintains a strict policy of confidentiality. No information is released without the student’s written consent except where disclosure is required or allowed by law. Emergency counseling is also available on a drop-in, first-come-first-serve basis.

Medical Insurance Requirement
As a condition of registration, the University requires that all graduate and professional students, including international students on non-immigrant visas, have medical insurance coverage that meets the University’s minimum requirements. Contact the Insurance Office on the fourth floor of the Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center for details regarding the campus Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or regarding the campus minimum requirements.

Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)
OSD Services are designed to meet the unique educational needs of regularly enrolled students with documented permanent and temporary disabilities. The philosophy and mission of the program are to encourage independence; assist students in realizing their academic potential; and facilitate the elimination of physical, programmatic, and registration fees. The clinical staff is comprised of highly qualified doctors, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES
All registered graduate students may use the Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center, an outpatient clinic geared to the special needs of students at UCLA. The Ashe Center offers a full range of clinical and support services, most of which are prepaid by student
attitudinal barriers. The OSD staff is available to assist students in successfully meeting educational challenges. A good introduction to
the OSD, explaining how the OSD works and how to obtain services, is available in the OSD Student Handbook. For a copy, log on to the website.

OTHER IMPORTANT CAMPUS SERVICES

Libraries
As one of the top five research libraries in North America, the UCLA Library system comprises the Charles E. Young Research Library, the College Library, and eight specialized subject libraries. The BruinCard serves as the library card for UCLA students, faculty, and staff. Users will need to have their account activated the first time they attempt to check out materials; this can be done at the circulation desk in any campus library.

BruinCard
The free BruinCard serves as students’ official piece of identification as long as they are a part of the University community. This multi-purpose card serves as a registration card, library card, recreation center card, building access control card, Big Blue Bus card, Culver City bus card, and much more. The BruinCard should be presented whenever required to provide proof of UCLA status.

Bruin OnLine (BOL) - (310) 267-HELP
It is a collection of services that provides UCLA students, faculty, and staff with e-mail, web hosting services, network connectivity (including wireless), and free software and support.

MyUCLA
access real-time class schedules, grades, campus appointments, traffic, and information about the weather; check their UCLA e-mail account and link to campus events and resources.

University Credit Union

This on-campus credit union offers free checking, on-campus ATMs, student loans, and computer & car loans.

BruinDirect Deposit

It is an electronic deposit of funds service. All recipients of fellowship awards and traineeships are strongly encouraged to sign up for BruinDirect to have their stipends deposited directly into their personal bank accounts. Recipients of monthly stipends who have NOT signed up for BruinDirect will likely experience a delay of several days in receiving their checks. Monthly checks for those who have not signed up for BruinDirect will be mailed to the recipient's local address (if one has been provided to us) and will not necessarily be mailed before the first of the month.

Sign up is available on the BruinBill via MyUCLA. It's the fastest, most secure way to receive refunds at UCLA! Refunds processed using this method occur each weeknight.

Legal Services

Student Legal Services provides legal counseling and assistance regarding a wide range of legal issues to all currently registered and enrolled UCLA students. They help students with a variety of problems, including: landlord/tenant relations; accident and injury problems; domestic violence and harassment; criminal matters; divorces and other family law matters; automobile purchase, repair, and insurance problems; health care, credit, and financial aid issues; and consumer problems. Students may make appointments by telephone or in person, and there is an initial intake.
charge of $30 for each matter; there are no charges for subsequent visits on the same matter. The office is open from September through June.

**Bruin Resource Center**

The Bruin Resource Center helps by providing information, referrals, and support to navigate the university and to connect with the right campus resource or person. The Center also provides specialized services and programs to address the particular concerns and needs of Bruins who are transfers, veterans, former foster youth, parenting students, or AB 540 students.

**Computing and Technical Services**

- **Free Online IT Training Resource**
  UCLA LearnIT is a gateway to IT training at UCLA. It provides technology training to UCLA staff, faculty and students.
  [http://www.learnit.ucla.edu](http://www.learnit.ucla.edu)

- **Social Science Computing (SSC)**
  SSC offers a variety of computing services. Basically, it supports the computing needs of faculty, staff, and students in the Social Sciences division by providing computer labs for personal coursework, training, and instructional use.
  [http://computing.sscnet.ucla.edu](http://computing.sscnet.ucla.edu)

**Labs**
The labs are available to all Social Sciences faculty, undergraduate and graduate students taking a Social Sciences course or enrolled in a Social Science Major. Social Sciences Computing has six labs available for instructional purposes during the academic year.

The main labs are located at **2041 Public Affairs** (other labs are located at Bunche and at Haines). Most of the labs are available for drop-in use when the labs are not in session.
detailed instructions. For Social Sciences Computing Labs and Graduate Student Server (Zambezi), go to
http://computing.sscnet.ucla.edu/labs/remote-access

**SSC Support Desk**
The Social Sciences Computing Support Desk is located in Public Policy Building Room 2035A.

Normal hours of operation:
Monday - Friday 9am to 5pm.

You can contact SSC in person, via the phone (x62821), or email (support@ssc.ucla.edu), this is where they address all of your questions. Please, direct all questions and problems about access to the network or services available from SSC through the Support Desk.

In the SSC website you will also find very useful information for instructional purposes. For instance, as TAs you can make your own class web sites for your discussion sections. Social Sciences Computing Services offer one on one training on how to use the class web sites, just email help@ssc.ucla.edu

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**Emergency Phone Numbers**

**CALL 911 when calling from prefixes 206, 267, 794, or 825**

8-911 when calling from off-campus ECS prefixes 312, 411, or 794

(310) 825-1491 when calling from a cellular phone from campus or adjacent locations.

*For more detailed information go to http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/police
Escort Service - (310) 794-WALK

Campus Security Officers are available for a walking escort free of charge to students, faculty, staff, or visitors 365 days a year from dusk until 1 a.m.

Evening Van Service (310) 825-9800

The UCLA Evening Van Service provides a safe means of transportation around campus during evening hours. The vans provide transportation between campus buildings, on-campus housing, and nearby residential areas. The service is free for UCLA students, employees, and visitors. Maps of the van routes are available online.

Emergency Medical Services

UCLA Emergency Medical Services is a student operated program that provides 9-1-1 ambulance coverage for the campus and surrounding community, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. EMS-1, our primary campus ambulance is a basic life support unit that responds to more than 1,200 medical aid calls each year.

✜ UCLA Emergency Medical Services
Email: info@ucpd.ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 825-1491

✜ Ronald Reagan UCLA Emergency Room
Phone: (310) 825-2111
601 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1364

Business Hours:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Station Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days/week.

Campus Events Commission (CEC). CEC is a student-funded organization dedicated to introducing the freshest fare in film, music, and speakers into the bloodstream of the UCLA community. They host weekly $2 movies as well as free sneak previews.

The Graduate Student Events program offers social and cultural events that promote interaction among graduate students. Events include mixers, GradBar, and speed dating.

UCLA Happenings presents over 1,000 top pick events each year in sports, arts and lectures on the UCLA campus.

Go to the movies (free). Melnitz movies. All movies are FREE to the UCLA community, including students, staff, faculty and guests, unless otherwise noted. Movies are shown at James Bridges Theatre at UCLA. Tickets are available at the Melnitz box office the day of the screening, one hour before show time. http://www.gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/melnitz

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Parking

Current and incoming UCLA graduate students are eligible for student parking. However, because UCLA is in a densely populated urban area, parking for students near campus is very limited.

Though student parking on campus is assigned by a need-based point system, our department has requested parking spaces for our graduate students. Student parking is generally assigned prior to the start of Fall Quarter classes and offered for the academic year. If you are interested in getting a parking permit, please let the Administrative Specialist Officer know.
let you know the costs and how to proceed.

**Transportation**

**Bicycles.** Riding a bicycle could be not only fun but also healthy and an inexpensive way to get to campus. The UCLA Recreation Center provides shower and locker facilities to cycling students. The university recently opened a Bicycle Community Center where students can rent bikes and tools or have trained staff fix their bicycle. The center is located next to the Outdoor Adventure Center in the northwest corner of the Wooden Center.

**Motorcycles and Scooters.** Motorcycles, scooters and mopeds park free at UCLA in designated spaces. There are nearly 1,200 motorcycle/scooter parking spaces, including specially designed areas in parking lots and structures. Motorcyclists and scooters are only required to display a permit when parked in a designated parking stall in an area/lot where a permit is required.

**Shuttles.** There are different shuttle routes that provide round-trip service within campus and close neighborhood: the Campus Express, the Wilshire Center Shuttle, the Northwest Campus Shuttle, the University Apartments shuttle, the Football Shuttle and the Groceries Shuttle. For more detail on their routes and schedules go to [http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/1001490](http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/1001490)

**Bus to LAX.** There is a daily Non-Stop Bus Service to and from LAX. The stop is next to UCLA Parking Structure 32 on Kinross Avenue, two blocks north of Wilshire Blvd., just west of Gayley Ave. The cost is $10 each way. See UCLA FlyAway’s site [http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/1003097](http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/1003097)

**BruinGo.** All currently enrolled UCLA students and current UCLA staff and faculty with a valid BruinCard may participate in BruinGo and have unlimited access to any Santa Monica Big Blue

**Santa Monica’s Big Blue Buses.** They serve Santa Monica and neighboring communities in Los Angeles. This bus line travels 13 different routes, serving more than 1,000 stops along the way, from beaches, parks, and shopping areas to businesses, colleges, even downtown Los Angeles and LAX International Airport.

**Culver City Bus.** It serves the Westside communities of Century City, Culver City, Mar Vista, Marina del Rey, Palms, Venice, West Los Angeles, Westchester, and Westwood with convenient and reliable public transit service.

**Go Metro** transit pass gives UCLA riders the convenience of an unlimited Metro Bus and Metro Rail pass at significantly reduced fares. Metro Buses make nearly 1,200 trips to UCLA or Westwood daily. There are over 15 stops in the UCLA/Westwood area. Also board any of the hundreds of Metro bus routes and Metro rail lines that travel throughout metropolitan Los Angeles. Go Metro transit passes are available for purchase two weeks before the start of each quarter, online or at the UCLA Central Ticket Office. Bring a valid BruinCard as its photo will be used on the Go Metro pass card.

**Vanpools** normally operate weekdays, traveling between a common pick-up location (where you may leave your car) and the UCLA campus/Westwood.

Bus or Culver City Bus. More details go to [http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/1000521](http://map.ais.ucla.edu/go/1000521)
CODE OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

In order to carry on its work of teaching, research, and public service, the University has an obligation to maintain conditions under which the work of the University can go forward freely, in accordance with the highest standards of quality, institutional integrity, and freedom of expression, with full recognition by all concerned of the rights and privileges, as well as the responsibilities, of those who comprise the University community. UCLA students assume these privileges and
responsibilities upon admission and cannot use ignorance of these policies as a justification for violating community standards. (UCLA Student Conduct Code)

All members of the academic community are responsible for the academic integrity of the UCLA campus. A code of conduct for the campus community must exist in order to support high standards of behavior. Students are expected to make themselves aware of and comply with the law, and with University and campus policies and regulations. Academic misconduct is contrary to the purposes of the University and is not to be tolerated. Examples of academic misconduct include:

- Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on examinations
- Using or having unauthorized materials out during an examination
- Plagiarism - using materials from sources without citations
- Altering an exam and submitting it for re-grading
- Fabricating data or references
- Using false excuses to obtain extensions of time
- Multiple submissions. It includes, but is not limited to, the resubmission by a student of any work that has been previously submitted for credit in identical or similar form in one course to fulfill the requirements of a second course, without the informed permission/consent of the instructor of the second course.
- Coercion Regarding Grading or Evaluation of Coursework

Other Forms of Dishonesty:
- Other forms of dishonesty, including, but not limited to, fabricating information or knowingly furnishing false information or reporting a false

- Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any University document, record, key, electronic device, or identification.
- Sexual, racial, and other forms of harassment.
- Disturbing peace and the use of violence.

Recommendations:
- Be honest at all times.
- Act fairly toward others.
- Take group as well as individual responsibility for honorable behavior. Collectively, as well as individually, make every effort to prevent and avoid academic misconduct, and report acts of misconduct that you witness.
- Do not submit the same work in more than one class. A work submitted for one course cannot be used to satisfy requirements of another course unless the student obtains permission from the instructor.
- Know what plagiarism is and take steps to avoid it. When using the words or ideas of another, even if paraphrased in your own words, you must cite your source. Students who are confused about whether a particular act constitutes plagiarism should consult the instructor who gave the assignment.
- Know the rules - ignorance is no defense. Those who violate campus rules regarding academic misconduct are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including suspension and dismissal.

See also the document on UCLA Graduate Students Rights and Responsibilities elaborated by the University Graduate Division (Appendix 7).
QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

Routine administrative questions should be addressed first to the Graduate Advisor and, next to the Director of the Graduate Program. In addition, the Director of the Graduate Program functions as informal ombudsman for departmental graduate affairs. Graduate students and faculty should bring all matters of concern to her attention.

This handbook represents an effort to bring together information, university policy, and department policy and regular practices. However, students should be aware that these policies and practices can change (by vote of the Department or by decision of the Director of the Program, the University Graduate Council or the Graduate Division, depending on the policy) and that the existence of this handbook does not represent a promise that they will not be subject to change. Often, however, when university or department policies are changed, currently enrolled students are grandfathered into preexisting requirements.
M.A. Thesis - Guidelines

M.A. Thesis
According to University regulations, “Every master’s degree program that includes a thesis plan requires the completion of an approved thesis that demonstrates the student’s ability to perform original, independent research.” (Standards and Procedures for Graduate Studies p. 8)

Students will complete the M.A. degree by writing an original interdisciplinary research paper, critical reflection, or creative portfolio that integrates knowledge learned in their graduate coursework. The M.A. thesis should be submitted by Spring quarter of their second year, but no later than the seventh quarter (normally Fall quarter of the third year).

In consultation with the student, a thesis committee should be nominated by the department and approved by Graduate Division no later than Fall Quarter of the student’s second year. The thesis committee will consist of three members from UCLA. The student’s faculty advisor, and at least one other member must hold academic appointment in the student’s department (ladder-ranked faculty from the list of core or jointly-appointed faculty in the department). (See “Thesis Committee Regulations” below)

A Master’s Thesis provides opportunities for students to plan, complete, interpret, and report research relevant to their chosen area of study. The thesis project must be an original work that has not been published previously, and must be conducted and written under the guidance of the faculty advisor. Ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to make adequate progress toward completion of her or his thesis and produce high quality work.

The Master’s Thesis should demonstrate the following from the student:

☐ Ability to plan and conceptualize an original research project.
☐ Ability to carry out the planned research activity.
☐ Ability to reference and understand important work in the field.
☐ Ability to analyze the results of the research.
☐ Ability to draw reasonable conclusions from the research.
☐ Ability to complete a publishable-quality thesis.

Steps Toward Writing the M.A. thesis
1. Form M.A. Thesis Committee.
   Chicana/o Studies 598 may be repeated for three quarters. Students may take up to a maximum of 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 598 in a single Academic Year
3. Develop general plan of research to submit to M.A. thesis committee for approval during Fall quarter of the second year.

4. In consultation with your Academic Advisor, establish a research and writing timeline, and a date for submission of the completed thesis to your committee.

5. Develop a proposal for the thesis that should include:
   a. Statement of research question
   b. Proposed objectives of the study
   c. Review of pertinent literature
   d. Theoretical framework and methodology

6. If research involves human subjects, obtain IRB Approval.

---

**Keep in mind**

According to University regulations, **before beginning work on the thesis the student must obtain approval of the subject and general plan from the thesis committee.** *(Standards and Procedures for Graduate Studies p. 8)*

The Master’s thesis should be approximately 50-75 double-spaced pages (depending on the field), excluding the bibliography, using one-inch margins. For style, footnotes, and bibliography, follow the MLA or Chicago Manual of Style.

The thesis is evaluated on a pass/no pass basis.

For guidance in the final preparation of the manuscript, the student should consult *Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Filing Guide*, available at [http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/thesisguide.pdf](http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/thesisguide.pdf)

Orientation meetings on the preparation and filing of theses and dissertations are held normally during the first week of classes each regular academic term (except summer). Students are encouraged to attend one of these meetings. Dates are posted on the Graduate Division website at [http://www.grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/thesismtg.htm](http://www.grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/thesismtg.htm).

**Thesis Committee Regulations**

The thesis committee must be nominated by the department no later than Fall Quarter of the student’s second year.

Nominations for the thesis committee are listed on the “Nomination of Master’s Thesis Committee” form and sent to the Graduate Division for consideration ([https://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/degreeinfo.htm](https://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/degreeinfo.htm)).

According to University regulations, Master’s thesis committees are appointed by the dean of the Graduate Division, acting for the Graduate Council, upon nomination by the chair of the department. They consist of a minimum of three faculty members from UCLA. The chair of the committee and at least one other member must hold academic appointments in the student’s department. By petition, one of the minimum three members may be a faculty member from another UC campus who holds an appropriate appointment as listed in *Standards and Procedures*. 
Note: During the Fall quarter of the second year, students should be able to prepare at least an abstract of the proposed thesis and an outline of the work, as well as a timeline for gathering data and writing.
Filing and Format
For filing deadlines and format, see “Thesis and Dissertation: Formatting and Filing Guide”
http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/thesisguide.pdf

Advancement to Candidacy
According to University regulations, it is “the student’s responsibility to file advancement to candidacy (ATC) forms for the master’s degree in the major department no later than the second week of the quarter in which the student expects the award of the degree. Failure to do so will prevent the student from receiving the degree until the quarter in which the forms are filed and the student is advanced to candidacy, regardless of when the degree requirements were completed.” (Standards and Procedures p. 7). Advancement to candidacy may not occur until the foreign language requirement has been satisfied. Candidates have one calendar year from the date of advancement to candidacy in which to complete all requirements for the degree (for additional information see Standards and Procedures). For instance, if the student needs more time to complete the thesis or needs to clear outstanding incompletes, she/he will have one year after advancing to candidacy to finish everything.

Advancement to Candidacy Form can be found in the Graduate Division main web page (under “Forms and Publications”)

APPENDIX 2
M.A. AND PH.D. TIMELINE
César E. Chávez Department for Chicana/o Studies
Graduate Program- Timeline -

<table>
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<tr>
<th>M.A./Ph.D.</th>
<th>4th Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Oral Qualifying Exams (Students can take Oral Exam as early as Fall, but not later than Spring)</td>
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<td>Winter</td>
<td>Prepare Dissertation Proposal/or Dissertation research and writing</td>
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APPENDIX 3
DOCTORAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS GUIDELINES
QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS GUIDELINES

Academic Senate regulations require all doctoral students to complete and pass University written and oral qualifying examinations prior to doctoral advancement to candidacy. Also, under Senate regulations the University oral qualifying examination is open only to the student and appointed members of the doctoral committee. In addition to University requirements, some graduate programs have other pre-candidacy examination requirements. What follows in this section is how students are required to fulfill all of these requirements for this doctoral program. The Qualifying Examinations (QEs) consist of written and oral sections: 1) a written exam that seeks to evaluate the student’s knowledge of the field; 2) a dissertation prospectus that outlines the rationale behind the proposed dissertation project and provides an outline of its major parts, and 3) an oral component that measures the student’s ability to engage in informed conversation about these fields and their specific applications to the student’s dissertation project.

To become a doctoral candidate, the student must provide evidence of competency in the field by passing both the written and oral Qualifying Examinations. The QEs determine whether the student has an adequate command of knowledge in the field of study, and can organize, apply and convey that knowledge. They also test the student’s readiness to pursue advanced independent research in Chicana and Chicano Studies with appropriate concentrations.

All coursework and language requirements must be completed before the examinations take place.

Students must complete these examinations within one calendar year of completing all requirements listed on the degree plan. Normative Time to Advance to Candidacy is 12 quarters (normally Spring of the fourth year).

Students must be registered to take written and oral qualifying examinations. If such examinations are to be taken in the summer, the student must have been registered in the immediately preceding Spring term. (Standards and Procedures p. 13-14)

THE WRITTEN QUALIFYING EXAMINATION

1) The Written Qualifying Examination normally will take place in Spring of the third year, but no later than Winter of the fourth year.

2) The Written Qualifying Examination is a two-part exam based on the student’s coursework, research interests, and familiarity with the field.
   - Part One seeks to evaluate the student’s knowledge of the field. It will consist on a literature review based on a
reading list of 40-50 texts drawn up by the student in consultation with his/her dissertation advisor (See attached the Department Reading that could be used as a source to prepare your lists).

- **Part Two** will be a paper in response to a question related to the students’ dissertation research; it will require a theoretical grounding in the students’ areas of specialization, an ability to define and apply interdisciplinary methodology, and a well-supported argument.

- Each part of the written exam should be approximately ______15-25__ double-spaced pages, excluding the bibliography, and using 12-point font and one-inch margins.

- For students of the Expressive track an additional aspect of the comprehensive exam option is to demonstrate progress on agreed upon creative work approved by your Graduate Advisor (committee Chair) associated with the development of your thesis. It will require presentation of that work to the Chair of your committee and at least one other member along with submission of a written exam of 25 pages. Presentation can carried out via presentation of the actual work or Digital representation (pwpt, Prezi, film, story board).

3) **Reading Lists.** Students should start working on their list in Fall of their 3rd year.
- The student should circulate a first draft of the QEs bibliography to the examination committee (see below) and the early in the quarter preceding that in which the student plans to take the exam. The examination committee may recommend additional items to add to the list, which the student will be responsible for reading and adding to the list.
- A final copy of the bibliography should be submitted to the examination committee and department’s Graduate Committee at least one month prior to the exam.

4) **Examination Committee.** Prior to taking the exams, an examination committee should be formed.
   - The examination committee should be constituted not later than the quarter preceding that in which the examination is given (normally in Winter quarter of the third year).
   - In consultation with the dissertation advisor, students choose two other committee members, one of which could be a faculty who holds a joint appointment with the department, and whose interests and fields of expertise support research in the proposed area of the dissertation.
   - These three department faculty members constitute the departmental examination committee, which is responsible for administering the Written Qualifying Exams.
   - The chair of the examination committee prepares the questions for the written examination, which also should be shared with the rest of the examination committee and the department’s Graduate Committee.

5) **The Day of the Exam.** Students will have two weeks to complete their written qualifying exam.
   - The exam should be taken at the beginning of the quarter (normally Spring quarter of the third year).
   - Students will receive the exam questions on Monday of the first week of the quarter and should submit their answers on Monday of the third week at the established time.
   - Late submissions will not be considered and the student should re-take the exam in the following quarter.

6) **Submission of the exams.**
   - The written exams should be sent in pdf format (and in word if so required by the advisor) by the due date, with copy to the Director of the Program and the SAO.
Because the QEs represent the student's own written and oral work, there should be no consultation about the content of the exam between the student and other students, faculty, and/or tutors between the time the Written QE questions are distributed and all the oral exams are completed. Students may consult the chair of the relevant qualifying examination committee for clarification on the written question.

7) Evaluation. The Examination Committee will evaluate the passing quality of the written exams. The decision should be made by the end of the quarter in which the student took the exam. The exams are evaluated on pass/no pass basis.

Please, keep in mind that the overall result of the qualifying exam is based on a holistic evaluation of all three elements—the written exam, the dissertation prospectus, and the oral examination. However, students who fail either part of the written qualifying examination may retake it once without petition the following quarter. Students who fail the written qualifying examination a second time will not advance to doctoral candidacy and will be dismissed from the Program.

THE ORAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION
The University Oral Qualifying Examination is also known as a defense of the dissertation prospectus. Following completion of the Written Qualifying Examination, students are required to take the University Oral Qualifying Examination no later than Spring quarter of the fourth year.

The doctoral committee is responsible for administering the qualifying oral exam.

1) The Dissertation Committee
After completing coursework for the Ph.D. and the language requirement, but before taking the University Oral Qualifying Examination, the chair of the department, after consultation with the student, nominates a four-person doctoral committee.

According to University regulations, doctoral committees consist of a minimum of four faculty members from UCLA. Three of the four doctoral committee members must hold appointments at UCLA in the student’s major department. One of the four doctoral committee members must hold an appointment at UCLA in a department “outside” the student’s major department. (Faculty who hold multiple appointments counts as “inside” if one of those appointments is in the student’s department).

Two of the four doctoral committee members must hold the rank of professor or associate professor (regular or in-residence series) at UCLA. (See Standards and Procedures for more details.)

2) The Dissertation Prospectus
   - The dissertation prospectus of approximately 30 pages, excluding bibliography, will be presented to the entire dissertation committee in a two-hour meeting. To pass the dissertation prospectus defense, the exam must be “passed” by at least three members of the committee. If more than one committee member does not pass the oral exam, the student may be dismissed from the program, or, by majority vote of the committee, the student may be allowed to retake the oral exam once.
   - All members of the doctoral committee must receive a hard copy of the prospectus at least two weeks before the oral exam.
   - It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the oral exams at least six weeks in advance, in consultation with all members of the committee and the Director of Graduate Studies. The department’s Administrative Specialist will be responsible for scheduling and reserving the room for the
oral exam.
The prospectus should
- Elucidates the candidate’s research project: What are the research questions and what materials will be used to answer your questions?
- Gives an overview of the extant literature, indicating why the study to be undertaken moves beyond what has been written to date.
- Delineates and justifies the interdisciplinary methodologies, theories and critical approaches that will be used to complete the project. Why is an interdisciplinary approach appropriate for the topic under consideration?
- Justifies the project: Why this topic? Why now? What will be its original contribution to the field?
- Offers a tentative outline of the structure of the dissertation.
- Provides a timeline of the research to be conducted.
- Includes an annotated bibliography.

3) Evaluation. According to University regulations, the doctoral committee conducts the oral qualifying examination to determine whether the candidate is qualified for advancement to candidacy for a doctoral degree.

- This examination is open only to the committee members and the student.
- All members of the committee must be present at the examination.
- A successful oral exam is one in which the student is able to deliver a polished presentation and respond productively to questions, concerns, and suggestions their examiners may have about the dissertation prospectus.
- It is the duty of the chair of the Doctoral Committee to see that all members of the committee report the examination as ‘passed’ or ‘not passed.’
- A student may not be advanced to candidacy if more than one member votes ‘not passed’ regardless of the size of the committee. Upon majority vote of the doctoral committee, the oral qualifying exam may be repeated once.

Overall, there are three possible outcomes of the qualifying exams:
- Pass: Student advances to candidacy
- No pass: Student may retake the written exam, or a portion of it, once.
- Fail: Student does not advance to candidacy. (This only applies for students who have failed the written exam twice and/or failed the oral part of the exam. If this occurs, the student will be dismissed from the Program.)

Advancement to Candidacy
Students are advanced to candidacy and awarded the Candidate in Philosophy degree (C.Phil.) upon successful completion of the written and oral qualifying examinations.

Students who have advanced to candidacy should provide a copy of their dissertation prospectus to the SAO for inclusion in their files. Each subsequent year following advancement to candidacy, students should submit a dissertation project update that will be added to the student’s dossier.

FAQ
The following is a list of questions put-together by the first doctoral cohort in Chicana/o Studies. The questions address inquiries regarding to the upcoming Qualifying Examinations. It is important to note that
these questions deal mainly with the Written portion of the Qualifying Exams (i.e. sans “Prospectus”).
Qualifying Exams Reading List

Can we add books to the track lists and remove books?
- Yes. The reading list should be seen as a resource. According to the Doctoral Qualifying Exams Guidelines, “The committee may recommend additional items to add to the list, which the student will be responsible for reading and adding to the list” (p.2). The Graduate Committee also agreed that it should be a living list. Therefore, new texts could be added on regular basis. In agreement with their academic advisor and their Examination Committee, students can propose adding or removing texts from the list. If so desired, students in consultation with their advisors can also suggest a list of foundational texts in the field that would serve to prepare Part One of the written portion of the exam (a broad knowledge of the field). The Graduate Committee should be notified of any changes to the list.

Can we add books from other tracks (that are not our tracks) to our official tracks list?
- Yes. The procedure is the same as indicated above.

Do we just read the books from our first and second track, or is there a list of foundational text we must incorporate (especially considering question one of the QE)?
- For Part One, students should be able to demonstrate their familiarity with the field. As stated above, in consultation with their advisors students can come up with a list of foundational texts in preparation for this part of the exam. The proposed list of foundational texts should be shared with the rest of the Examination Committee and the Graduate Committee ahead of time just in case some modifications are needed. As stated in the Guidelines: “A final copy of the bibliography should be submitted at least one month prior to the exam” (p.2).

- Part Two of the exam is more specific to your field. As stated in the Doctoral Qualifying Exams Guidelines, “The paper in response to a question related to the students’ dissertation research; it will require a theoretical grounding in the students’ areas of specialization, an ability to define and apply interdisciplinary methodology, and a well-supported argument” (p. 2). Therefore, it is assumed that selected texts from your areas of specialization lists will be included.

Administering the Exam

How many questions will we be asked? Who formulates the questions? How long do we have to work on the essays? How many pages will do our essays need to be? I also have a question about the dissertation proposal and the length of it?
- Most of these questions are answered in page 2 of the Guidelines.
- The Written Qualifying Examination is a two-part exam based on the student’s coursework, research interests, and familiarity with the field. See above.
- The exam is prepared and evaluated by the Examination Committee.
- As stated in the Guidelines, “Students will have two weeks to complete their written qualifying exam” (p.2). “Each part of the written exam should be approximately 15-25 double-spaced pages, excluding the bibliography, and using 12-point font and one-inch margins” (p. 2).
▪ Dissertation Proposal.
  "The dissertation prospectus of approximately 30 pages, excluding bibliography, will be presented to the entire dissertation committee in a two-hour meeting” (p. 4).

▪ If you have co-chair advisors, who formulates the question and how? Also, in the case of co-chairs, does your entire committee read the exam and decide if you pass like a one-chair committee would?
  ▪ The exam is prepared and evaluated by the student’s examination committee independently on how the committee is constituted (one chair or co-chairs).

▪ How long do we have to do the exam?
  ▪ See above.

Advancement to Candidacy

▪ Is there a threshold between the moment you pass your qualifying examinations (“formally passing”), and officially advancing to candidacy in Graduate Divisions’ records? If so, what is the timeframe between passing the exams, and officially ABD’ing?
  ▪ See p.2 of the Guidelines: “Students are advanced to candidacy and awarded the Candidate in Philosophy degree (C.Phil.) upon successful completion of the written and oral qualifying examinations.” Or to put it in another words, passing the exams means that you become an abd. Keep in mind that “the academic residence requirement for doctoral advancement to candidacy consists of four quarters of registration, three of which (ordinarily the last three) must be spent in continuous residence at UCLA” (Standards and Procedures).
  ▪ The Graduate Division advances a student to candidacy when the report on the University oral qualifying examination is received. The department will report to Graduate Division that you passed the written and oral exams immediately.
However, the timeframe between we report that you passed the exams and showing it on Graduate Division’s records would depend on their turn around, but it usually never takes more than 7-10 working days (provided everything is in order).
  ▪ How soon do we know if we passed? Students should take the Written QEs at beginning of the quarter. They will get both questions in Week 1, the responses will be due in Week 3, so we will be able to evaluate the exam by the end of quarter. For the Oral portion (which could take place as early as the following quarter, but no later than Spring quarter of the fourth year), students will know the very same day if they passed the oral defense of their prospectus. Keep in mind that “all members of the doctoral committee must receive a hard copy of the prospectus at least two weeks before the oral exam” (p. 4). And that “it is the responsibility of the student to schedule the oral exams at least six weeks in advance, in consultation with all members of the committee and the Director of Graduate Studies” (p. 4)
PhD QUALIFYING EXAMS
Suggested LIST OF TEXTS

Students should be prepared to write on at least 25 texts from the list of Caminos I, III, and IV. Students in Camino II see instructions under Expressive Arts.

I) Border and Transnational Studies


II) Expressive Arts

Students specializing in Creative Writing will be tested on at least ten novels from the list below, plus an additional ten books from the list of Critical Texts. Those specializing in the Visual Arts will be tested on at least 20 texts from among the list of Visual Arts and Exhibition Catalogs.

Creative Writing

NOVELS

- Gaspar de Alba, Alicia. 1999. *Sor Juana’s Second Dream*. U of New Mexico P.

CRITICAL TEXTS (All the titles of this “Critical Texts” list should also be included as part of Track III required texts list).


Visual Arts


EXHIBITION CATALOGS


University of Washington Press.

III) History, Culture, and Language of the Americas

Culture. Boston:
Beacon Press.

**See also CRITICAL TEXTS. All the titles listed under “Critical Texts” (in “Expressive Arts” track) should also be included as part of this track required texts).


15. García, María Cristina. 2006. Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada (UC Press 2006)


Austin: University of Texas Press.

Berkeley and Los Angeles, U of California P.


Guidelines for Student’s Progress Assessment

Quality of Work
- Please indicate if your evaluation of the student is on the basis of her/his performance in your courses or as your advisee (if both, make a distinction as needed).
- If your evaluation is based on the student’s performance in your courses, please, indicate the grade she/he received.

- Research. Comment as applicable on: ability to conduct quality research, ability to think of and discuss new ideas, ability to organize ideas and develop a logical argument, thesis topic and overall progress toward completion of program requirements (writing M.A. thesis, doctoral dissertation, qualifying exams).

- Professionalism. Comment as applicable on: conduct, dependability, presentation skills, writing skills, communication skills, teamwork, participation in professional development opportunities.

Overall Performance
Comment on
- Activities/goals the student has accomplished and what activities/goals remain to be achieved.
- Any specific areas where the student demonstrates strengths.
- Any specific areas of improvement the student needs to address.
- Any particular concerns the student has raised regarding his/her academic and/or professional performance over the past AY. Steps taken towards its solution.
APPENDIX 5
GRADUATE STUDENTS SELF REPORT AND SELF-ASSESSMENT
### Graduate Students Self Report and Self Assessment

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**Faculty Academic Advisor**

**Research Interests**

**Awards and Fellowships held during your first year in the program (also include those you’ve applied to and indicate if they were granted or denied)**

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**Conferences attended as presenter during your first year in the program.**

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**Teaching and/or research assistantships you have undertaken (including Summer 2013).**

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**Publications. List the works you have already published or submitted for publication in the past year.**

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**Other professional achievements and activities.**

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M.A. Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation
Title and brief description of your proposed research topic

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Goals for coming year – describe intended accomplishments

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Ph.D. Qualifying Exams
If applicable, briefly describe your plans in preparation for the exams

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Summary of Accomplishments and Future Plans
Provide a brief reflective description of what you have accomplished thus far in your graduate studies at UCLA, what barriers you had to overcome and/or you are currently facing, and your plans for this Academic Year (through June 2015). Attach additional pages if necessary

_________________________________________________________________________________________
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APPENDIX 6
TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT
Terms of Employment

Academic Student Employees
Contract

Academic Student Employees (teaching assistants, readers, Tutors) are represented by the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW). The contract covers Academic Student Employee policies, rights, terms of employment, benefits and grievances. The policies in this contract supersede any in this booklet. GSRs are not represented by a collective bargaining unit.

http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/employees/policies_employee_labor_relations/collective_bargaining_units/academicstudentemployees_bx/agreement.html

Duration of Appointment

In most cases academic apprentice teaching and research appointments are for one year or less, and are self-terminating. Hire agreements for these appointments should include an annual or earlier ending date and the following statement:

“This appointment is for one academic year or such lesser term as herein set forth, and is not for a longer period unless express notification is so given to the appointee. In the absence of such express notification, the appointment ipso facto terminates at the conclusion of the academic year or such lesser time as specified.”

Those few appointments approved by the Graduate Division for more than one year are the exception to this general rule.

Maximum Working Hours

UC students may not be employed for more than 50 percent of full time during an academic quarter, in any single or combination of University titles, academic and/or staff, including University Extension unless authorized by the Dean of the student’s school or college. Percentages are figured on the basis of 100 percent = 40 hours per week. Students can be employed up to 100 percent during quarter breaks and summer. Go to http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/appm/maxemploy.pdf to see the maximum number of hours of employment that can be reported during months that include interquarter or summer periods.

1. For teaching assistants/associates/fellows, the 20 hours should include the time in faculty lectures, preparation, classroom or laboratory teaching, reading and commenting on student papers or examinations, office consultation, and other duties required to carry out the teaching role.
2. For graduate student researchers, the 20 hours should include the time spent in library, laboratory, and all other research tasks providing assistance to the assigned project.

3. For readers, an assignment to read for one course should not exceed 25 percent time per quarter, or the equivalent of 10 hours per week variable.

Foreign students on F-1 visas are also limited by federal regulations to 50 percent time aggregate employment. Students on J-1 visas may have similar limitations based on individual work limitations. Students should consult with the Dashew Center for International Students & Scholars regarding the details of their visa restrictions. Please note that the Dashew Center can only approve requests for students who have ATC and have completed all course work.

**Compensation**

Salary scales are at [www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/appm/aaprate.pdf](http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/appm/aaprate.pdf).

Range adjustments happen at the beginning of each October. Academic apprentice personnel are compensated at rates established by the University of California Office of the President. Students are not to be appointed to apprentice personnel titles, nor are they to assume responsibilities equivalent to those defined by such titles, without salary. Short-term experiential student teaching or supportive research activities for educational purposes may be required in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements, providing such requirements are approved by the Graduate Division and stated in official publications. However, such work may be equivalent to that of students in apprentice titles only if the student receives the appropriate salary.

Student assistants who have previously served in academic apprentice positions may be reappointed or advanced to the titles for which they are qualified no later than two weeks prior to the effective date of their employment. No advancements can occur for a given quarter after the beginning of that quarter. Reappointments and advancements are not automatic.

**GSR Salary Step Increases**

There are ten salary steps for GSRs. Students who have completed all the requirements for the masters degree, and/or have relevant prior experience may not be appointed below step III. Students who have formally advanced to candidacy for the doctorate and have a minimum of two years of relevant research experience may not be appointed below step V. Departments must develop their own consistent policies for all the other steps. Funding provided to graduate students in the form of fellowships, which is not administered via the Payroll system, is not academic apprentice employment and does not count toward step increases.

**Special Reader Salary Step Increases**

Students appointed at Step II must have completed at least 36 units of graduate coursework (not including courses 375 and 495). The course(s) in which special readers are to be used must be approved for this purpose by the Dean of the Graduate Division. Such courses should be upper division or graduate level, be required of all or a large number of majors, and have large enrollments and complex homework assignments.

**GSR Terms of Employment**

**Unauthorized Absence**

If an apprentice appointee fails to perform assigned duties due to an unauthorized absence, the employee is subject to a proportional reduction in salary.

Staff: Refer to the Teaching Days service chart in the Academic Personnel Manual for information on how such
reductions can be effected in the EDB Personnel and Payroll Systems. This chart can be accessed at http://www.ucop.edu/acadadv/acadpers/apm/apm-600.pdf.

GSR Conduct and Discipline

In addition to expecting academic apprentice appointees to follow ethical precepts, University policy provides that apprentice appointees who participate in a strike and who fail to meet their assigned duties in an effort to disrupt University administration, teaching, or research may receive a corresponding reduction in pay and may be subject to termination, denial of re-employment, or other appropriate sanctions.

An allegation against an apprentice appointee charging violation of professional ethics or University policy should be addressed to the appropriate chair or director. The chair or director is empowered to lodge a formal complaint against the individual with the appropriate dean of the school or college. The formal complaint shall be in writing, and shall state the facts which allegedly constitute a violation of policy or ethics. A copy shall be provided to the individual against whom the complaint has been lodged.

GSR Termination

a. For academic reasons: Academic apprentice appointees shall be terminated from their positions at the discretion of the Dean of the Graduate Division at any time the student withdraws from student status, does not register, is placed on academic probation, or otherwise fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

b. For another good cause: Academic apprentice appointees may be terminated for such cause as incompetence or incapacitation, misconduct resulting in disciplinary action, and budgetary or programmatic considerations. Authority to terminate rests with the dean of the school or college. Termination may take place only after the appointee has been given written notice of the intention to terminate, with reasons and appropriate documentation, and after the appointee has been given an opportunity to appear before the school or divisional dean with a representative. Termination may not take effect until at least 30 days after written notice. When the dean determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that an appointee’s continued assignment would endanger people or property, or would impair the integrity of the academic program, the student may be placed on full or partial interim suspension with pay until termination.

GSR Appeal Procedure

Copies of the grievance procedures for non-Senate academic appointees, including those in apprentice titles, can be obtained from the Office of Campus
APPENDIX 7
UCLA GRADUATE STUDENT ACADEMIC RIGHTS AND
UCLA Graduate Student Academic Rights and Responsibilities

Preamble

Considering the nature of the academy, we, the graduate students of the University of California, Los Angeles, in order to promote a collegial, respectful, and academically sound relationship between our faculty and colleagues, and to define our role in the University as a whole, do formally endorse the rights and responsibilities enumerated below. We will strive to fulfill the provisions outlined in this document, as it has the potential to lay a solid foundation so that faculty and students can together build a genuine intellectual community.

This document’s purpose is to provide a general framework of guidance for graduate students with regards to academic issues. This document is not a legally binding document but a statement of principles to be used as guidance and support. Many of the items contained within are already specified as rights or responsibilities of students in official university literature, often in greater detail than presented here.

Section 1 General Provisions

1. As members of the University community, we, as graduate students, have the right to be respected as individuals. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of Conduct, Appendix I, Part II, Section A. www.apo.ucla.edu/facultyhandbook/9.htm.

2. We have the right to be free from “discrimination, including harassment,” based “on political grounds, or for reasons of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, national origin, ancestry, marital status, medical condition, status as a covered veteran, or within the limits imposed by law or University regulations, because of age or citizenship or for other arbitrary or personal reasons.” Official grievance procedures and informal complaint procedures should be publicly available at the Graduate Division and at the department or graduate program level. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of Conduct, Appendix I, Part II, Section A. www.apo.ucla.edu/facultyhandbook/9.htm.

3. We have the right to express our views and to participate in the political processes of the University community at large.

4. We have the right to be free from reprisals for exercising the rights claimed herein.

Section 2 Provisions for Mentorship

1. We have the right to respectful mentorship. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of Conduct, Appendix I, Part II, Section A. www.apo.ucla.edu/facultyhandbook/9.htm.

2. We have the right to the “confidential nature of the relationship between professor and student” including our communications with members of the faculty. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of Conduct, Appendix I, Part II, Section A. www.apo.ucla.edu/facultyhandbook/9.htm.

3. A member of the faculty should not discuss a student’s formal academic evaluation or behavior with other students. Discussion of a student’s performance among the faculty should be of a professional nature.

4. We have the right to refuse to perform tasks if those tasks are not closely related to our academic or professional development program. Members of the faculty should not exploit our abilities to their personal advantage. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of Conduct, Appendix I, Part II, Section A. www.apo.ucla.edu/facultyhandbook/9.htm.

5. Faculty are to “acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance” from students. Faculty and graduate students are expected to discuss collegially, respectfully, and in a timely manner, the recognition associated with contributions to scholarship and research. For example, the quality and level of work expected for first authorship, and the forms of co-authorship, should be clearly understood and commensurate with disciplinary norms relating to factors such as creative input, the conduct of research, and writing. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of

6. We will conduct ourselves, in all University activities, in a manner befitting an academic colleague. Our behavior should be a credit to ourselves, to the higher academic unit, and to the University.

7. We will provide accurate and honest reporting of research results, and we will uphold ethical norms in research methodology and scholarship. UCLA Student Code of Conduct, Section II, Part C. www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/conduct.html.

8. We will understand our role and do our part in the development of the relationship between a faculty mentor and a graduate student.

9. We will select a mentor whose research interests correspond to our own.

10. We will communicate regularly with faculty mentors and advisers, especially in matters related to research and progress within the graduate program.

11. We will have an awareness of the time constraints and other demands imposed on the members of the faculty and the program staff.

Section 3 Provisions for the Degree

1. We have the right to access non-confidential “approved outline of program requirements for all graduate and professional degree programs offered through the Graduate Division.” These requirements should be communicated clearly to us when we enter a graduate program, and we will thereafter routinely consult them in order to evaluate our progress. Program Requirements for UCLA Graduate Degrees. www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/pgmrqintro.htm

2. Graduate students have the right to know the normative time to degree, the average time to degree, and the maximum allowed time to degree within their graduate programs. This information should be explicitly communicated to newly admitted students. Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA. www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spintro.htm.

3. We will devote an appropriate amount of time and energy toward achieving the advanced degree within normative time, allowing for exceptional circumstances. We understand that timely progress through the program is necessary to allow prospective students to begin their pursuit of the advanced degree. Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA. www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spintro.htm.

4. We will take the initiative by asking questions in order to clarify the academic requirements and the financial matters of our specific graduate program.

5. We will honestly acknowledge the state of our progress toward the degree.

6. Graduate students have the right to know a program’s “graduation rates of enrolled students,” and, if available, the predominant reasons for which students choose to leave, but this should in no way compromise the privacy rights of others. University of California Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students, Section 72.00. www.ucop.edu/ucophome/uwnews/aospol/uc70.html

Section 4 Provisions for Financial Support

1. We recognize that eligibility for merit-based financial support is appropriately based on satisfactory degree progress and other academic performance criteria. Graduate students who have not met established academic performance criteria should not be entitled to financial support.

2. We have the right to an accurate description of the availability and likelihood of financial and resource support within our programs.
Section 5 Provisions for Evaluation

1. We have the right to have “evaluations of students” that reflect “each student’s true merit” and based on criteria that are understood by the faculty, the graduate adviser, and us. UCLA Faculty Handbook, Faculty Code of Conduct, Appendix I, Part II, Section A. www.apo.ucla.edu/facultyhandbook/9.htm.

2. Evaluations should be factual and specific, and should be shared with us within a reasonable period of time. Certain evaluations, including annual progress reports, split decisions on qualifying examinations, and unusual or additional program requirements, should be presented in writing.

3. The reasons for unsatisfactory performance on programmatic examinations should be stated clearly in a written evaluation.

4. We should be given a fair opportunity to correct deficiencies in our academic performance.

5. Any intent to dismiss a student (in regular status not on academic probation or on provisional status) from a graduate program for academic reasons must be preceded by specific, written performance information, well in advance of actual dismissal. The “Graduate Dean has final authority” with regards to academic dismissal and “an appeal can go no higher.” Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA. www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spintro.htm

Section 6 Provisions for Training and Future Employment

1. It is the responsibility of departments, faculty advisors and mentors to provide students with meaningful opportunities for professional training. This training should include socialization into the norms of the discipline, information about professional associations and conferences, job interview skills, career options, standards of conduct and professional ethics, and the basic intellectual skills required to be successful practitioners of the discipline. In turn, we will endeavor to participate in these opportunities as available.

2. We have the right to explore our full professional options, both inside and outside the academy. UCLA Career Center. career.ucla.edu

Section 7 Provisions for Contributions to the University Community

1. We will participate in the University community to the extent that we are able, and we will leave the campus enriched in whatever ways possible.

2. We will contribute to the academic development and the social environment of the department or program in which we are pursuing an advanced degree.

3. We will contribute to the administration of the graduate program, of student government, and of the University.

4. We will uphold the public service aspects of the mission of a Public University at a level appropriate
to our individual wits and ability.

5. We will recognize the value of being good citizens of the University.

Section 8 Three Principles of Shared Governance

1. We have the right to share in the governance of the University. We have the right to “have the privilege of the floor” of the Academic Senate “including the right to make motions.” Manual of the Academic Senate, Bylaw 55. www.senate.ucla.edu/FormsDocs/bylaws/ch4-4-1.htm

2. Graduate students, when reasonable and appropriate, “shall be invited to attend and participate at all meetings of” of Academic Senate committees, according to the guidelines of shared governance. Manual of the Academic Senate, Bylaws 45 and 55. www.senate.ucla.edu

3. We have the right to “participate in the governance of the University” including our departments and programs. Student representatives should be selected by the students in the program. Our involvement in appropriate policy decisions made at the departmental and program level provides for increased communication of our ideas and concerns, as well as evidence that we are in training as future academicians. University of California Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students, Section 72.00. www.ucop.edu/ucophome/uwnews/aospol/uc70.html

Section 9 Endorsement and Amendments

The endorsing bodies of this document are requested to review and propose changes to said document. These changes are subject to approval by all endorsing bodies. This review and amendment should take place during the Fall Quarter every academic year. The following entities are in endorsement of this document as a guiding document for graduate student academic rights and responsibilities.

UCLA Graduate Students Association
Endorsed May 28, 2003

UCLA Graduate Council of the Academic Senate
Endorsed May 30, 2003