On behalf of the faculty and staff of the César E. Chávez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies, we extend a very warm welcome to you, the 2020 CCS graduate students (our ninth cohort). We wish you a rewarding and successful graduate student experience.

This handbook contains important academic and administrative information you will need while pursuing your graduate work in the department. Please read it carefully. Consider it your first source for information when you have questions regarding requirements, necessary paperwork at each stage, course selection, timelines, and resources. It includes university policy and department (internal) policy. It supplements the UCLA General Catalog and Graduate Division’s website, which we request that you also regularly consult for information on rules and procedures.
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GRADUATE STUDIES

The Cesar E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies offers the Master of Arts (M.A.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in Chicana and Chicano Studies.

Master's Degree

The M.A. degree in Chicana and Chicano Studies is not intended to be a stand-alone, terminal degree, but is, rather, a requirement for the Ph.D. 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).

Advising

A faculty member is assigned as provisional advisor to each incoming student until a permanent faculty advisor is selected in the second year. The Faculty Advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies assist students with planning their program of study. Students are expected to meet with their faculty advisor at least once a quarter, usually at the beginning of the quarter to have their enrollment plan approved. The Graduate Student Affairs Officer provides assistance with policy and procedure.

This professor will be your principal scholarly advisor. You will work most closely with your faculty advisor to develop your academic skills and optimize your educational experience at UCLA. Your faculty advisor will help you make critical decisions regarding your career and you should seek their counsel when making plans regarding work opportunities as well as your overall progress in the program. The faculty advisor should provide you with adequate feedback to help you navigate your research projects, complete your M.A. thesis, prepare for your Oral Qualifying Exams, defend your dissertation proposal, and complete your doctoral dissertation. The faculty advisor also serves as the chair of your M.A. thesis and Doctoral Committees.

Director of Graduate Studies. Professor Charlene Villaseñor Black is formally responsible for the program. She plays a key role in your academic life, and works closely with Graduate Division. With the help of the Graduate Student Advisor Officer, Ellie Hernández, she will assist you as you plan your program of study to fulfill the program requirements. Dr. Black expects you to meet with her as needed until you select an advisor. She also considers any special requests you may need for satisfactory progress. These include leaves of absence, petitions to add or drop a course, readmission to the program, and petitions to nominate an outside M.A. or Ph.D. committee member from other UC campuses. In some of these instances, in consultation with the Graduate Committee and/or the student’s academic advisor, she will judge whether the student’s request is in order, is in their own best interest, and is feasible under existing regulations. Dr. Black is available by appointment.

Graduate Student Affairs Officer, Ellie Hernández, is your go-to person for graduate student concerns that involve the department or Graduate Division. After you have carefully consulted this Handbook and Graduate Division’s website, if you still have unanswered questions, Ellie should be your next source. She will inform you about program requirements and funding opportunities, and can help with
Graduate Division and departmental policy and procedure. Because Ellie is also the SAO for our large and vibrant undergraduate program, she sets aside Wednesdays for graduate student meetings. Please be sure to set up an appointment in advance to meet with her.

**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 and Central American Studies.

M.A. and Ph.D. students may take courses in each of the four areas:

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

Please note that the research paradigms of genders and sexualities, power and inequalities, and the colonial-decolonial-postcolonial intersect with all four areas. 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, able to deconstruct cultural discourses and politics of oppression, and offer effective strategies of resistance and empowerment.

The geopolitical focus of the curriculum is the metropolitan Los Angeles region, home to the largest Mexican origin community in the country, as well as to sizeable populations of Central American and other Latino groups. The department is well placed to draw from the city’s large and diverse population – its social experiences, historical realities, cultural and linguistic processes, and literary and artistic productions.

**Contact Information**

- **Email**
  All graduate students are entitled to a free UCLA email account. Every student is expected to establish and regularly monitor their own UCLA email account for official communications. The Office of Graduate Studies, our department, and other campus entities will send information to your UCLA e-mail account. You will be considered notified when such official emails are sent to your UCLA email account. Please sign up for and regularly monitor your UCLA e-mail account.

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    Phone (310) 206-7695
    Fax (310) 825-2449
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    (310) 267-4816
    cvblack@humnet.ucla.edu
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  iramirez@chavez.ucla.edu

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  (310) 206-7695  
  sgarcia@chavez.ucla.edu

**Graduate Division**

- [https://grad.ucla.edu](https://grad.ucla.edu)
- Graduate Division Academic Policies, [https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/](https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/)
- Graduate Division Financial Support, [https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/](https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/)
- Graduate Division New Student Orientation Handbook, [https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/graduate-study/new-students-orientation](https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/graduate-study/new-students-orientation)

**Graduate Student Resource Center**  
[http://gsrc.ucla.edu](http://gsrc.ucla.edu)

**Student Health Services**  
[http://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/default.aspx](http://www.studenthealth.ucla.edu/default.aspx)

**Counseling and Psychological Services**  
[http://www.counseling.ucla.edu/](http://www.counseling.ucla.edu/)

**Center for Accessible Education**  
[http://www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu)

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**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**Foreign Language Requirement**

Students at the M.A. level must demonstrate reading fluency in Spanish in one of two ways: (1) passing a departmentally-administered written examination; or (2) completing two years of Spanish language instruction at an institution of higher learning, with a grade of C or better.

Students are required to complete the Spanish language requirement by the end of the winter quarter of the second year of graduate study.

**General Information about Courses**

**General Required Courses series/numbers:**

- **100 series**: Undergrad upper division courses
- **200 series**: Graduate courses and seminars
- **300 series**: Highly specialized teacher-training courses (i.e. 375), which are not applicable toward University minimum requirements for graduate degrees
- **400 series**: Designed for professional programs leading to graduate degrees other than the M.A., M.S., and Ph.D.
  - **495**: Learner-Centered Teaching in Chicana/Chicano Studies
- **500 series**: 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 M.A. or PhD Qualifying Examinations
  - **598**: Research for M.A. Thesis
  - **599**: Research for PhD Dissertation
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 M.A. level, you must successfully complete a certain set of courses in your areas of study, in addition to successfully executing a thesis.

• If you hold a M.A. in Chicana and Chicano Studies or in a related field, and want credit for this degree, you must submit your Master’s thesis for evaluation. The Department’s Graduate Committee will evaluate the thesis to determine whether or not it fulfills the M.A. requirements of our program. If your Master’s thesis is deemed satisfactory, you will be allowed to enter the Ph.D. program under Plan B (see Doctoral Degree requirements below).
  • To get your Chicana/o Studies M.A. accepted for credit, you must submit your original, unaltered thesis no later than the third week of the Fall quarter of your first year.
  • If you were admitted to the Ph.D. program without an M.A. degree, you will follow Plan A (described below). If you enter the Ph.D. program with an approved M.A. thesis, then you will follow Plan B.

Course Requirements

Plan A

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 3.0 grade-point average. Of the 40 units, at least 32 must be completed at the graduate level. Up to four 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.

Required courses:

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

• Four graduate courses (16 units) in areas that relate most closely to the student’s research interests, all of which should be taken in the department.

• Two elective courses (eight units) of graduate and/or upper division undergraduate courses taken within or outside the department.

• Four units of Chicana/o Studies 598 (master's thesis research) or 596 (Directed Individual Studies or Research).

Students may take up to a maximum of 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 598, and up to a maximum of 12 units (Sign up with your advisor to take four units of Chicana/o Studies 598 during quarters when you are working on your master’s thesis research) 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. 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

New Teaching Assistants must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 495 preferably before or during the quarter when they receive their
first teaching appointment. In the following quarters, Teaching Assistants must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 375; enrollment in 375 may be used toward the minimum course load of 12 units per quarter. Neither of these courses may be counted toward the degree requirements.

**Thesis Plan**

*Every master’s degree thesis plan requires the completion of an approved thesis that demonstrates the student’s ability to perform original, independent research.*

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

The thesis committee will consist of the student’s faculty advisor and two ladder-ranked faculty, one of which should be from the list of core or jointly-appointed faculty in the department, and the other may be from outside the department. The thesis committee should be appointed by the Graduate Division no later than spring quarter of the student’s second year.

**For Students Conducting Empirical Research:**

UCLA’s Human Subject Protection Committee (HSPC) assesses research proposals through its Institutional Review Boards (IRB). If you conduct research at the M.A. level that entails contact with human beings (medical procedures, questionnaires, interviews, observation, etc.), then in addition to receiving the approval of the thesis committee, you must also attain the official approval of the UCLA IRB before beginning your research project. For more information regarding IRB application procedures, contact the HSPC: (310) 825-7122. [http://ora.research.ucla.edu/OHRPP/Pages/IRB.asp](http://ora.research.ucla.edu/OHRPP/Pages/IRB.asp)

When you are preparing a proposal for your thesis (including the IRB application when applicable), you must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 597 (Spring of the 1st year). When you are researching and writing the thesis, you must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 598 (Research for M.A. Thesis) under the guidance of your faculty advisor. (See M.A. Thesis Preparation Guidelines, Appendix 1.)

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

*Prior to writing your thesis, your M.A. committee must formally accept your thesis plan. Please follow the filing procedures carefully.*

1) **Advance to Candidacy (ATC)**

According to Graduate Division Standards and Procedures, it is your responsibility to file advancement to candidacy forms for the master’s degree *no later than the second week of the quarter* in which you expect the degree. (See Standards and Procedures, pp.7–8).

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

[https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/forms/](https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/forms/)

*Bring your completed ATC form when you meet with Ellie Hernández. She will assist you in identifying courses that count toward the M.A. degree. The ATC form must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.*
2) Nomination of M.A. Committee
The thesis committee consists of two UCLA faculty members plus your faculty advisor. You must file your “Nomination of a Master’s Committee” as soon as you file your ATC form.

Thesis Deadline
See the Registrar’s Calendar for the M.A. thesis-filing deadline: https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/calendar/

Thesis Formatting and Filing
Your thesis manuscript should be formatted and filed according to Graduate Division regulations. For guidance, consult Thesis and Dissertation Formatting and Filing Guide, available at: https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/graduate-study/thesis-and-dissertation-filing-requirements/

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

Time-to-Degree
The normative time-to-degree (TTD) for full-time students is six quarters and the maximum time-to-degree is seven quarters.

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<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>NORMATIVE TIME TO ATC (Quarters)</th>
<th>NORMATIVE TTD</th>
<th>MAXIMUM TTD</th>
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<tr>
<td>M.A.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
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Again, you must take the minimum course load of 12 units each quarter. You can take more than 12 units, with the approval of your faculty advisor. Please note: you must be continuously registered and enrolled, unless you obtained an approved leave of absence.

Doctoral Degree
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 Course Requirements below).

Advising
The Director of the Graduate Program and the Student Advising Officer (SAO) assist students with planning their program of study and guide them toward the fulfillment of the program requirements. Students should select their faculty advisor and mentor by the end of the second year. After completing course work for the Ph.D., but before taking the University Oral Qualifying Examination, the student submits a four-person doctoral committee that requires approval of the department’s Graduate Committee and appointment by the Graduate Division. The doctoral committee is responsible for supervision, review, and approval of the doctoral dissertation. The SAO provides assistance with policy and procedure.

Major Fields or Subdisciplines
None.

Foreign Language Requirement
Students at the Ph.D. level must demonstrate reading fluency in Spanish in one of two ways: (1) passing a departmentally-administered written examination; or (2) completing two
years of Spanish language instruction at an institution of higher learning, with a grade of C or better.

Students are required to complete the Spanish language requirement by the end of the winter quarter of the second year of graduate study.

Course Requirements

Plan A
For students under Plan A, who have completed all the course requirements for the M.A. as described above, a minimum of 24 additional units (normally six graduate courses), taken for a letter grade, are required to complete the Ph.D. These 24 units should provide more depth to the student’s preparation in the field and research agenda. Eight units (2 courses) may be taken outside the department.

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), taken for a letter grade, as follows:

- Chicana/o Studies 200, 201, and 202 (12 units) are required and should be taken within the first two years.
- Eight graduate courses in the research areas of specialization (32 units), 3 of which may be taken outside the department.

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 no more than 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 596 per academic year, before the Ph.D. course work requirements are completed. Students are eligible to enroll in 599 units only after advancing to PhD candidacy.

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 must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 495 preferably before or during the quarter when they receive their first teaching appointment. In the following quarters, teaching assistants must enroll in Chicana/o Studies 375; enrollment in 375 may be used toward the minimum course load of 12 units per quarter. Neither of these courses may be counted toward the degree requirements.

Written and Oral Qualifying 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 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. All committee nominations and reconstitutions adhere to the Minimum Standards for Doctoral Committee Constitution.

The Qualifying Examinations consist of written and oral sections. All course work 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 dissertation topic. 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 no later than the quarter preceding that in which the examination is given.

The Written Qualifying Examination consists of two essays based on the student’s course work, research interests, and familiarity with the field.

Students have two weeks to complete both essays. The first essay seeks to evaluate the student’s knowledge of the Chicana/Chicano Studies field. It will consist of a literature review based on a reading list of a minimum of 50 texts drawn up by the student in consultation with his/her/their dissertation advisor. The core part of this bibliography will be based on the department reading list. The question for the first essay will be developed by the graduate advisors of students taking the exam in any given quarter.

The second essay will be 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.

Exams will be given on the Monday of the first week of the quarter and are due on Monday of week 3 of the quarter. Your Faculty Advisor will email you the two questions. You will have exactly two weeks (date and hour) to complete your written qualifying exam. Submit your responses electronically in Word and PDF to your Advisor, to the Director of Graduate Studies, and to Ellie Hernández.

Students may enroll in up to 12 units of Chicana/o Studies 597 (examination preparation) to help prepare for the exam. Students who fail to pass 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 recommended for academic disqualification.

Following completion of the Written Qualifying Examination, students are required to take the University Oral Qualifying Examination no later than Spring of the fourth year. In consultation with the dissertation advisor, students choose three
other committee members who will collectively be responsible for supervising, reviewing, and approving the doctoral dissertation. Faculty interests and fields of expertise should align with the proposed area of the dissertation. The exact constitution of the committee must follow Grad Division guidelines: https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/doctoral-studies/minimum-standards-for-doctoral-committee-constitution-effective-2016-fall/

The dissertation committee should be constituted no later than the quarter preceding that in which the student aims to advance to candidacy.

The oral examination is approximately two hours in length and is focused on the student’s dissertation proposal, which should draw from Essay 2 of the Written Qualifying Exam. The University Oral Qualifying Examination is open only to the members of the doctoral committee (typically 4 faculty) and the student.

Both the Written and the Oral Qualifying Examinations will be evaluated on a pass/no pass basis.

**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.

After advancing to candidacy (successfully defending your proposal), the minimum course load is 8 units per quarter. You must be continuously registered and enrolled. If not, you must have obtained an approved leave of absence.

**Doctoral Dissertation**

Every doctoral degree program requires the completion of an approved dissertation that demonstrates the student’s ability to perform original, independent research and constitutes a distinct contribution to knowledge in the student’s principal fields of study.

**Final Oral Examination (Defense of Dissertation)**

No public defense of the dissertation is required, but the doctoral committee, in conjunction with the student, may opt to voluntarily hold a defense of the dissertation.

**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 the completion of the Ph.D. being seven years (21 quarters). The maximum time-to-degree (TTD) is 24 quarters.

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<tr>
<th>DEGREE</th>
<th>NORMATIVE TIME TO ATC (Quarters)</th>
<th>NORMATIVE TTD</th>
<th>MAXIMUM TTD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>24</td>
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</table>

**Nomination of Doctoral Committee:**

You must submit a completed “Nomination of Doctoral Committee” form (available in Basecamp, Box, and Graduate Division) to Graduate Division for approval at the beginning of the quarter when you defend your dissertation prospectus (Oral Qualifying Exam). The form must be signed by the Director of
Graduate Studies and a copy must be submitted to Ellie Hernández.

When you successfully complete the written and oral qualifying exams, you have “advanced to candidacy,” and will be awarded a C.Phil., a Candidate in Philosophy degree.

**Oral QE & Prospectus:**
You may schedule the Oral QE only after:

a) you pass your written QE  

b) finish your dissertation prospectus  

c) your doctoral committee has been appointed in accord with UCLA regulations [https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/doctoral-studies/nomination-of-doctoral-committee/](https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/doctoral-studies/nomination-of-doctoral-committee/)

d) the chair of your committee agrees that you are ready.

You are required to take the Oral Qualifying Exam no later than Spring of your fourth year, unless special circumstances arise. Your doctoral committee is responsible for administering the exam. Under UCLA faculty Senate regulations, the UCLA oral qualifying exam is open only to the student and appointed members of the doctoral committee. The approximately-two-hour Oral Qualifying Exam (conducted behind closed doors) will focus on your dissertation proposal. (For more details, see Doctoral Qualifying Examination Guidelines, Appendix 3).

*The normative Time to Advance to Candidacy is 12 quarters. This is inclusive of the completed M.A. coursework.*

**For Students Conducting Empirical Dissertation Research:** UCLA’s Human Subject Protection Committee (HSPC) assesses research proposals through its Institutional Review Boards (IRB). If you conduct research that entails contact with human beings (medical procedures, questionnaires, interviews, observation, etc.), then in addition to receiving the approval of the doctoral committee, you must also attain the official approval of the UCLA IRB *before* beginning your research project. For more information regarding IRB application procedures, contact the HSPC: (310) 825-7122. [http://ora.research.ucla.edu/OHRPP/Pages/IRB.aspx](http://ora.research.ucla.edu/OHRPP/Pages/IRB.aspx)

**Dissertation**
The doctoral degree program requires the candidate to complete a dissertation (in the form of the prospectus your doctoral committee has previously approved). This dissertation is direct evidence that you can perform original, independent research. The dissertation constitutes a distinct contribution to knowledge in your field of study.

**Final Oral Examination (Dissertation Defense)**
No public defense of the dissertation is required, but the doctoral committee, in conjunction with the student, may choose to hold a defense of the dissertation.

**Dissertation Filing**

You are also encouraged to attend an orientation meeting on manuscript preparation and filing procedures that are conducted by the Graduate Division at the beginning of each quarter.

All Thesis and Dissertation filings are done electronically. Graduate Division provides detailed information here: [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 5 years of completion of the
requirements for the master’s degree; the total time from admission to graduate status until you finish Ph.D. completion is 7 years (21 quarters).

The Maximum Time-To-Degree is 24 quarters.

Evaluation of Students’ Academic Progress

We monitor your academic progress at the departmental level to discover and address any potential problems early. To this end, the faculty conducts an annual Academic Progress Evaluation on each student, usually in the Fall quarter of each academic year.

“In Good Standing”

You are considered a graduate student in good academic standing if you:

1) meet the standards of quality of the CCS program and the Graduate Division;
2) make satisfactory progress toward completing the degree requirements within the established time limit;
3) fulfill the Graduate Division’s requirement regarding continuous registration; and
4) fulfill the Graduate Division’s requirement regarding grade-point average.

When you are not in good standing, you cannot receive a degree or obtain a merit award. (For more information, see Guidelines for Students’ Progress Assessment, Appendix 4.)

Full-Time Graduate Program

You are required to be enrolled full time, except under special circumstances, as described below. To be a full time graduate student prior to your doctoral candidacy, you must take 12 units (typically equivalent to three courses) per term. When you are a doctoral candidate, you are required to take 8 units per term.

When you are a Teaching Assistant (TA), you are required to be registered and enrolled in at least 12 quarter units throughout your appointments. The 12 units required per quarter may include, among other courses, those in the 500 series (individual study or research), or the 375 course and/or 495 course.

TAs who take a leave of absence or withdraw during the quarter terminate their appointments and salary.

If you receive a Graduate Division Fellowship award (e.g. Cota-Robles, Graduate Research Mentorship, Dissertation Year Fellowship, etc.) you are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units per term for the duration of the fellowship, whether you have advanced to candidacy or not.

Although UCLA is a full-time educational institution, it recognizes the need for part-time study under special circumstances. Approval of less than full-time enrollment is at the discretion of the Department. If you have family, employment, or health problems that preclude full-time enrollment, you should contact Ellie to begin discussions about the possibility of an exception. (See “Standards and Procedures for Graduate Studies at UCLA, page 25.)

Continuous Enrollment

You must be continuously registered and enrolled unless you have an approved leave of absence. Once you advance to candidacy, you must be enrolled in 8 units, or 12 units if you are a TA or a recipient of a Graduate Division fellowship.

Full-time enrollment throughout the quarter is necessary in order to protect your employment benefits and to meet the terms of most
financial awards. Therefore, it is crucial that you enroll in classes, and if you must drop or add courses, that you do so by the end of the 2nd week of the quarter.

OTHER IMPORTANT GENERAL REGULATIONS & POLICIES

Please carefully study the “Standards and Procedures for Graduate Study at UCLA.” This document should be your “bible” while you are a UCLA graduate student. The link is: https://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spfgs.pdf

Incomplete Grades

The grade ‘I’ (Incomplete) is assigned when a student’s work is of passing quality but is incomplete for a valid reason. 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).

Leaves of Absence

On recommendation of the department, a leave of absence may be granted by the Graduate Division to continuing graduate students in good standing (3.5 GPA), who have completed at least one quarter in graduate status at UCLA. Leave of Absence Request forms are available here: https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/graduate-study/leave-of-absence-request/

A student may request a leave of absence for the following reasons: parental obligation, other family obligation (e.g., caregiving), medical, military, financial hardship, and outside employment. Per UCLA 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 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. No more than 3 quarters of leave of absence are permissible for a graduate student during the course of her/his/their enrollment at UCLA. Extensions may be approved in exceptional circumstances.

By UCLA policy, you are entitled to use UCLA facilities (excluding the library) only when you are a registered student. You may use the library without being a registered student.

PLEASE NOTE If you plan to consult with faculty or use other UCLA facilities during any quarter for 12 or more hours, you will not be eligible for a leave of absence or an extension of a leave of absence. Instead you must register. All faculty time is counted toward the 12-hour limit, including reading and commenting on thesis drafts.

Graduate Student Handbook
September 2020
**In-Absentia Registration**

In-Absentia registration allows graduate students to be away from California for research or coursework and remain enrolled at UCLA. This registration allows you to pay only 15% of combined Tuition and Student Services Fees. In Absentia Registration is for the academic year only. See the in-absentia petition form here: [www.grad.ucla.edu/gss/library/abspetition.pdf](http://www.grad.ucla.edu/gss/library/abspetition.pdf)

**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/his/their home campus. You are eligible if you:
- Complete at least one quarter of study prior to beginning the exchange.
- Have a grade-point average of 3.0 or above.
- Are 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’s website: [https://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spfgs.pdf](https://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/library/spfgs.pdf)

**Transfer of Credit**

You can petition to apply graduate status courses that you completed at other UCs 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 2 graduate status courses completed with a minimum grade of ‘B’ at other UCs may apply to UCLA master’s programs. The two courses would constitute the equivalent of 8-quarter units or 5-semester units. They may not fulfill the minimum 5-graduate-course requirement or the academic residence requirement. The Graduate Division and the Department must approve the student’s petition for transfer of credit.

Otherwise other courses may not be applied toward a UCLA graduate degree.

Correspondence courses are not applicable to graduate degrees.

**Termination of Graduate Study**

**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 (3.00) required by the Academic Senate to remain in good standing (some programs require a higher grade point average). 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 academic disqualification is made by the Director of Graduate Studies after a vote of the
department’s faculty. Before the recommendation is sent to 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 Graduate Division.

Special Departmental or Program Policy

In accordance with a vote of the CCS faculty, the Director of Graduate Studies will make a recommendation to Graduate Division to terminate the student. Prior to sending the recommendation to terminate to the Graduate Division, the student will be notified in writing. The student has two weeks to respond in writing to the Chair. If the student appeals, the CCS faculty will review the appeal and make its final 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) for each course in which the student is enrolled. If you intend to withdraw, you must request this status by the last day of instruction of the quarter in which the withdrawal is to begin. All such dates and 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. UCLA requirements state that unless granted a formal leave of absence, graduate students who fail to register are considered to have withdrawn from UCLA and must compete for readmission with all other applicants.

TEACHING AND OTHER FORMS OF EMPLOYMENT

UCLA policy governing the employment of graduate students treats the individual as a student first, not as an employee. It is designed to optimize your timely progress toward the degree. To this end, you cannot hold any combination of the following titles for more than 12 quarters:

- Reader or Special Reader on annual stipend
- Teaching Assistant
- Tutor
- Teaching Fellow
- Associate Fellow

Under special circumstances, the Chancellor, upon recommendation of the department chair and the Dean may authorize a longer period, but in no case for more than six years.

You will be required to fill out an exception form. Please confer with your faculty advisor, since you should be working on your dissertation at this time.

Teaching & Research Assistantships

Teaching Assistantships provide experience in teaching undergraduate students under faculty supervision. Graduate Student Researcher positions provide experience working on faculty-supervised research projects. Each department selects awardees for TAships and graduate student research positions.

TA Requirements and Regulations

Teaching Experience

Teaching is central to the mission of the field of Chicana/o Studies. As a doctoral student, we expect you to obtain a minimum of one year of teaching experience as a Teaching Assistant (TA) in our department—even if you are fully funded by foundation fellowships.
First-time TAs must take Chicana/o Studies 495, a course designed to prepare you to be an effective university instructor. We strongly recommend completing 495 before undertaking your first TAship, to be well prepared for the challenges of university teaching.

In subsequent quarters, as a TA, you may enroll in Chicana/o Studies 375 each quarter in which you hold a teaching appointment. Take 2 units of 375 for a 25% appointment; 4 units for a 50% appointment. This will help you fulfill your unit requirements. The 375 courses do not count toward the degree requirements.

Each appointment you receive to be a student teacher is for one academic year or less, and is self-terminating unless you are otherwise notified.

Appointment to the title of Teaching Assistant or Teaching Fellow may not exceed 50 percent time employment during the academic year, unless you apply for and receive an exception.

When you are employed 50% time, you are expected to devote, during instructional and examination periods, 20 hours per week to such work, including time spent in preparation, classroom and laboratory teaching, office consultation, and reading student papers (See: 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 college.

The Department highly encourages students not to work during their first year in the program. We also prefer that you not work more than 50% time during your first year as a Teaching Asst.

These are paid opportunities to refine your teaching skills by designing and teaching your own course. Students who have advanced to candidacy (C.Phil.) may apply to teach seminars during summer or for one quarter during the academic year. The number of fellowships are based on department needs and resources.

Test of Oral Proficiency

Students whose native language is not English must pass the Test of Oral Proficiency (TOP), an oral English exam, before their first TA appointment. See: https://grad.ucla.edu/admissions/english-requirements/

If you don’t take the exam, or fail the exam, you will lose the appointment. See: http://www.oid.ucla.edu/training/top

How to decline a TAship offer

If you are offered a TAship, you must decide to take or decline the appointment, as early as possible. Please inform Professor Leisy Abrego and GSAO Ellie Hernández when circumstances delay your decision. Any delay creates significant problems for the department staff, since we must immediately select another eligible graduate student.

UCLA TAs are represented by a union (http://www.uaw2865.org). The department follows union guidelines regarding TA appointments, contracts, and possible disciplinary action (such as removal from a TA position for failure to perform the contracted functions). (See, Terms of Employment, Appendix 6.)

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 you must:
• Be in good academic standing (3.5 or above GPA)
• Not have outstanding Incomplete grades
• Not have also accepted a Dean’s Award, or a GSRM fellowship for the Summer in question

We give preference to applicants who were not TAs during the previous Summer, and who have at least one-year experience as a TA in our department.

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

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 https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/ and https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/funding-for-continuing-students/

• **Financial need-based support:** The UCLA Financial Aid Office (A-129 Murphy Hall) can offer loans, grants, and (limited) work-study employment. Funding based on financial need is available only to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, but see more information: (310) 206-0400.
  
  https://www.financialaid.ucla.edu/Graduate/What-Aid-is-Available

• **Merit based support:** These take the form of fellowships, traineeships, TAships, and graduate student researcher positions. These awards are open to all students who have demonstrated high academic achievement, whether US citizens, permanent residents, or international students. 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

We also advise you to apply for other forms of university support, such as, Graduate Research Mentorship, Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, and Dissertation Year Fellowships. (Speak to GSAO Ellie Hernández for more information.)

**Financial Support for Travel**

Graduate Division supports doctoral student travel to present their work and network at conferences in their field, to conduct off-campus research, and to attend off-campus professional development opportunities. New and continuing doctoral students may apply for up to $1,000 total reimbursement that can be used, in whole or in part, at any time through the student’s seventh year in the doctoral program, as long as the student and the activity meet the eligibility requirements. For details and application: https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/funding-for-continuing-students/doctoral-student-travel-grants/

After exhausting Graduate Division travel grant funds, you are eligible to apply for department travel awards up to $350 total reimbursement for conference expenses per academic year. To be eligible for a conference travel award you must formally present at the conference, be in good standing (3.5 or above GPA), and have no outstanding incomplete grades. Applications must be submitted and approved prior to your conference travel. To apply, please contact department manager, Isamara Ramirez, for application information.

**UCLA Fellowships & Grants**

Merit-based awards provide stipends in varying amounts and may include fees and nonresident tuition. These awards are competitive and open to all graduate students. For a complete list of UCLA fellowships for continuing students
Extramural Fellowships

You are strongly encouraged to apply for extramural funding. These are merit-based forms of 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 graduate students is GRAPES database.

https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/#search

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Program

This Program is designed to provide financial support for doctoral students pursuing graduate research 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: https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/funding-for-continuing-students/graduate-summer-research-mentorship-program/#Apply

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship

These fellowships can help you obtain advanced training in modern foreign languages and related area studies. Visit the Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship page: http://www.grad.ucla.edu/asis/entsup/titlevi.htm

Dissertation Year Fellowship

When you have written part of your dissertation and are within one year of completing and filing it, you may apply for the UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship. Keep in mind: If you are awarded a DYF, 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, including TAships, from the university or departmental sources. You can, of course, receive outside funding after a DYF.

Concurrent Awards/Fellowships

If you are offered other awards (e.g., from extramural agencies or department allocations) in addition to a Graduate Division-administered fellowship, at the Graduate Division’s or department’s discretion, you may 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 that changes yearly. This amount does not include GSR or TA salaries.

Also, a student may not receive a combination of fee/tuition awards that total more than the cost of fees/tuition. For more information, see: https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/financial-aid/maximum-limit-of-merit-based-support/

We also advise that you speak to Chérie Francis in Fellowships and Financial Services at Graduate Division (310-206-2557).

Taxes

The IRS and the California Franchise Tax Board consider graduate fellowships as taxable income. For detailed info and forms go to: http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/gss/library/taxinfous.htm
ACADEMIC RESOURCES

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

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

UCLA Institute of American Cultures
https://www.iac.ucla.edu/

UCLA Center for the Study of International Migration
http://www.international.ucla.edu/migration/home

UCLA Center for the Study of Women
https://csw.ucla.edu/

Other Professional Resource Centers

- **Career Center.** [http://career.ucla.edu](http://career.ucla.edu)
  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. Consult their website for info on GSA structures, activities, and resources: [http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu](http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu)

- **Graduate Student Resource Center**
  The UCLA Graduate Student Resource Center is a one-stop resource, referral and information center for grad 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 website: [http://gsrc.ucla.edu](http://gsrc.ucla.edu)

- **Graduate Writing Center**
  Writing is one of the most important skills you will need to thrive in academia. The Graduate Writing Center offers free writing consultation to graduate students, as well as writing workshops on a variety of topics. You can meet with a trained and experienced graduate writing consultant to work on issues ranging from style and argumentation to grammar and syntax. Consultants will work with you to develop your writing confidence and skills. [http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/](http://gsrc.ucla.edu/gwc/)

- **Grant Proposal Advising**
  [http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/infoserv/fcltyconf.htm](http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/infoserv/fcltyconf.htm)
  Extramural grants are very prestigious. Winning one early in your career is widely recognized as a strong indicator of academic potential. This program provides you with experienced professional assistance so you can learn how to submit optimal grant proposals. They will help you refine your own proposals for competitive grad and postdoc fellowships for 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.
**STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES**

**Arthur Ashe Student Health and Wellness Center**

All registered graduate students may use the Ashe Center. It is an outpatient clinic for UCLA students. The Ashe Center offers a full range of clinical and support services, most of which are prepaid by student registration fees. The clinical staff is comprised of highly qualified doctors, nurse practitioners, and nurses.

**Counseling & Psychological Services**

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 & 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, UCLA requires all graduate students, including international students on non-immigrant visas, to have medical insurance coverage that meets certain minimum requirements. Contact the Insurance Office on the fourth floor of the Ashe Student Center for details regarding the campus Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) or regarding the campus minimum requirements.

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**Center for Accessible Education (CAE)**

The CAE is designed to meet the unique educational needs of regularly enrolled students with documented permanent or 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 attitudinal barriers. The CAE staff are available to assist students. An introduction to the CAE that explains how to obtain services, is available at the CAE website: [http://www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu)

Armando Flores is the Case Manager for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars at CAE (T: 310-206-1158; aflores@grad.ucla.edu)

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**OTHER IMPORTANT CAMPUS SERVICES**

**Libraries**

As one of the top five research libraries in North America, the UCLA Library system comprises the Young Research Library (YRL), the College Library, and 8 specialized subject libraries. Your BruinCard serves as your library card. You must have your account activated the first time you want 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 UCLA 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. It should be presented when you are asked to provide proof of UCLA status.
Bruin OnLine (BOL)

For computer support, consult BOL. It will provide you with e-mail, web hosting services, network connectivity (including wireless), and free software and support.
https://www.it.ucla.edu/bol
consult@ucla.edu
(310) 267-4357

MyUCLA

This is your customized portal web page to access your email, real-time class schedules, grades, campus appointments, traffic, weather info, and link to campus events and resources.
http://my.ucla.edu/

University Credit Union

This on-campus credit union offers free checking, on-campus ATMs, student loans, and computer & car loans.
https://www.ucu.org/

BruinDirect Deposit

This is UCLA’s electronic direct deposit service. You are strongly encouraged to sign up if you were awarded a fellowship or traineeships. With BruinDirect your stipends are deposited directly into your personal bank account. Otherwise, you might experience a multi-day delay in receiving your checks. Monthly checks for those who have not signed up for BruinDirect will be mailed to your local address (you must provide us with one), but it may not 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 funds 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.

Please note that Student Legal Services also include immigration consultations.

Students may make appointments by telephone or in person, and there is an initial intake charge of $10 for each matter; there are no charges for subsequent visits on the same matter. The office, located at A239 Murphy Hall, is open from September through June. See: http://www.studentlegal.ucla.edu

Bruin Resource Center

The Bruin Resource Center (located at the Student Activities Center B44) helps by providing information, referrals, and support to navigate the university and to connect you 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. Check out: http://www.brc.ucla.edu

Undocumented Student Program

The Undocumented Student Program (USP), within the UCLA Bruin Resource Center (BRC), supports undocumented students by providing caring, personalized services and resources that enable students to reach their highest potential. Through a variety of programs, workshops, and partnerships with students, campus allies, and community stakeholders, USP strives to support all members of the UndocuBruin community. Resources include a book lending
CALL 911 when from prefixes 206, 267, 794, or 825
CALL 8-911 from Emergency Phones. They have bright blue hoods or they look like towers.
CALL (310) 825-1491 from your cell phone
For more info: https://police.ucla.edu/emergency-information/emergency-calling-9-1-1
https://www.ucpd.ucla.edu

Computing and Technical Services

- **Free Online IT Training**
  UCLA LearnIT is a gateway to technology training: http://www.learnit.ucla.edu

- **Social Science Computing (SSC)**
  SSC offers a variety of computing services. It supports your computing needs in the Social Sciences division by providing computer labs for personal coursework, training, and instructional use. In the SSC website, you will also find very useful info for instructional purposes. For instance, as TAs you can make your own class web sites for your discussion sections. SSC offers one-on-one training on how to use the class web sites.

- **SSC Support Desk** is located in Public Policy Building Room 2035A. It is open: M–F 9am-5pm. You can contact SSC in person.
  - It is located at 2041 Public Affairs
  - by: http://computing.sscnet.ucla.edu
  - via phone (310-206-2821), or
  - by email (support@ssc.ucla.edu). Please, direct all questions and problems about access to the network or services to SSC Support Desk.

- **SSC Labs**: The labs are available to all graduate students taking a social science course. SSC maintains six labs available for instruction during the academic year. The main labs are located at 2041 Public Affairs (other labs are in Bunche and Haines).

**CAMPUS SAFETY**

**Emergency Phone Numbers**

CALL 911 when from prefixes 206, 267, 794, or 825
CALL 8-911 from Emergency Phones. They have bright blue hoods or they look like towers.
CALL (310) 825-1491 from your cell phone
For more info: https://police.ucla.edu/emergency-information/emergency-calling-9-1-1
https://www.ucpd.ucla.edu

**Escort Service - (310) 794-WALK**

(310) 794-9255. 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. https://police.ucla.edu/cso/evening-escorts

**Safe Ride Service (310) 825-4774**

The UCLA Safe Ride Service provides a safe means of transportation around campus Monday-Thursday from 7pm-12am. The vans provide transportation between campus buildings, on-campus housing, and nearby residential areas. The service is free for UCLA students, employees, and visitors. For maps and information about the UCLA Safe Rides app, see: https://ucla.app.box.com/v/saferide
Emergency Medical Services

UCLA Emergency Medical Services is a student operated program that provides 911 ambulance coverage for the campus and the surrounding community, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

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

- UCLA Emergency Room
  Phone: (310) 825-2111
  601 Westwood Plaza, Westwood, CA

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

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

RECREATION & CAMPUS EVENTS

UCLA Recreation
Through its 14 recreational and athletic facilities, UCLA Recreation provides extensive access to a broad range of recreational activities and services. The Department offers programming which encompasses the competitive, passive, social, cultural, and instructional aspects of recreational activity.

https://www.recreation.ucla.edu/

UCLA Happenings
Online calendar of events taking place throughout the year on the UCLA campus.

http://happenings.ucla.edu/

Central Ticket Office (CTO)
You can purchase tickets (often at discounted rates) for UCLA sports, theater, dance, music, and other performances. You will also find tickets to local theme parks and bus passes.

https://tickets.ucla.edu/home

Melnitz Movies
Presented by the UCLA Graduate Students Association and the ASUCLA Student Interaction Fund, Melnitz Movies exhibits free screenings of brand new, cult, and classic films on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:30 PM in The James Bridges Theater (Melnitz Hall 1409) throughout UCLA’s academic year (late Sept. - early June)

Tickets are available at the Melnitz box office the day of the screening, one hour before show time. http://gsa.asucla.ucla.edu/melnitz-movies.html

Campus Events Commission (CEC)
This student-funded organization is dedicated to introducing the UCLA community to new films, music, and speakers. They host weekly $2 movies as well as free sneak previews.

http://www.campuseventsblog.com/

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 inform Sandy Garcia, our Administrative Specialist Officer (sgarcia@chavez.ucla.edu). She will let you know the costs and how to proceed.

**Transportation**

**BruinBus**
BruinBus is a free year-round bus serving the UCLA community. Everyone is welcome to board at one of their many stops. There are different shuttle routes that provide round-trip service within campus and close neighborhood: the U1 Weyburn, the U2 Wilshire, the U4 University Apartments, and the U5 Evening Loop. For details on their routes and schedules go to: [https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-around-campus/bruinbus](https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-around-campus/bruinbus)

**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.

**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. [https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/travel-options/flyaway](https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/travel-options/flyaway)

**BruinGo**
All currently enrolled UCLA students and current UCLA staff and faculty with a valid BruinCard may participate in BruinGo to ride any Santa Monica Big Blue Bus or Culver City Bus at a subsidized rate. For more details go to [https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/brungi transit](https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/brungi transit)

**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**
Go Metro transit passes give UCLA riders access to 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 L.A. [https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/go-metro-transit](https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/go-metro-transit)
BruinTAP for Transit

The BruinTAP for Transit Program allows you to purchase or renew Go Metro and/or BruinGO! Flash Passes online and load both onto one TAP card.

https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/go-metro-transit

EZ Transit Pass

The EZ transit pass is the easy choice for convenience and savings if you regularly ride on two or more transit agencies like LADOT Commuter Express and Metro Bus. The EZ transit pass is a monthly pass good for local travel on 24 different public transit carriers through the Greater Los Angeles region. https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/public-transit/ez-transit-pass

Vanpools

UCLA vanpools are groups of people who travel to UCLA or Westwood in a UCLA van. They normally operate weekdays, traveling between a common pick-up location (where you may leave your car) and the UCLA campus/Westwood. There are nearly 150 UCLA commuter vanpools from 80 Southern California communities coming to UCLA daily. https://transportation.ucla.edu/getting-to-ucla/vanpool

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, namely 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. This 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 or consent of the instructor of the second course.
- Coercion Regarding Grading or Evaluation of Coursework

Other Forms of Dishonesty:

- Fabricating information or knowingly furnishing false information or reporting a false emergency to the University.
- 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 individual as well as group responsibility for honorable behavior. Individually and collectively, 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 you obtain 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 Student Academic Rights and Responsibilities elaborated by the UCLA Graduate Division, Appendix 7.

QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS

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 Graduate Studies, 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.

Routine administrative questions not answered in this Handbook or through Graduate Division (https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/) should be addressed first to GSAO Ellie Hernández, and then to the Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Charlene Villaseñor Black. The DGS functions also as informal ombudsperson for departmental graduate affairs. Graduate students and faculty should bring all matters of concern to her attention.
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/his/their thesis and produce high quality work.

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

- Plan and conceptualize an original research project.
- Carry out the planned research activity.
- Reference and understand important work in the field.
- Analyze the results of the research.
- Draw reasonable conclusions from the research.
- Complete a publishable-quality piece.

**Steps Toward Writing the M.A. Thesis**

1. During the Spring quarter of the first year, students should enroll in Chicana/o Studies 597 under the guidance of your thesis advisor to prepare a proposal for the thesis. It should include:
   
a. Statement of research question
   b. Proposed objectives of the study
   c. Review of pertinent literature
   d. Theoretical framework and methodology
   e. If research involves human subjects, obtain IRB Approval.
   f. Timeline for gathering data/sources during the summer and completing the thesis during the second year.
Form M.A. Thesis Committee during Spring of the first year. Please consult Grad Division regulations regarding the eligibility of faculty members. [https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/masters-studies/nomination-of-masters-thesis-committee](https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/masters-studies/nomination-of-masters-thesis-committee) (No official forms are required at this stage.)

2. In your second year, enroll in Chicana/o Studies 598 under the guidance of your Thesis Advisor. 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. Meet with GSAO, Ellie Hernández, to file ATC form no later than the second week of Spring quarter of your second year.

4. Also file the Nomination of a Master’s Committee form in Spring quarter of your second year.

5. In consultation with your Thesis Advisor, establish a date for submission of the completed thesis to your committee.
   a. Provide sufficient time to incorporate all three committee members’ feedback into a revised draft.

6. Attend a Thesis Filing Workshop and follow requirements for thesis formatting and submission.

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

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

**Thesis Committee Regulations**

According to University regulations, Master’s thesis committees consist of three faculty members from your home department. By petition, one of the three may be a faculty member from another UC campus who holds an appropriate appointment as listed in *Standards and Procedures*.

**Filing and Format**

For guidance on the final preparation of the manuscript, consult “UCLA Thesis and Dissertation Filing Requirements”: [https://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/filingrequirements.pdf](https://grad.ucla.edu/gasaa/etd/filingrequirements.pdf)

Workshops on the preparation and filing of theses and dissertations are held quarterly. Students are encouraged to attend one of these meetings. For filing deadlines and workshops, see “Thesis & Dissertation Filing Deadlines and Workshops”: [https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/calendar/thesis-dissertation-filing-deadlines-and-workshops/](https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/calendar/thesis-dissertation-filing-deadlines-and-workshops/)

**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. 9).

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/they will have one year after advancing to candidacy to finish everything.
The Advancement to Candidacy Form can be found in the Graduate Division main web page (See “Forms and Publications” https://grad.ucla.edu/academics/forms/)

Bring your completed ATC form when you meet with Ellie Hernández. She will assist you in identifying courses that count toward the M.A. degree. The ATC form must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.
## APPENDIX 2
### M.A. and Ph.D. Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 1</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>CCS 200 + 2 seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Apply for grants, fellowships (including Ford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td>CCS 201 + 2 seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Apply for grants, fellowships (including GRM, GSRM, Smithsonian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>CCS 202 + 597 + 495</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Fulfill language requirement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Choose Faculty Advisor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Choose MA committee</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Apply for CSRC/IAC/CSW grant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Begin IRB process, if necessary</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td>Collect data, begin the MA thesis</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### YEAR 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>If not TAing: 2 seminars (+ 598)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If TAing: 1 seminar + 598 + 375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Apply for grants, fellowships (including Ford)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td>If not TAing: 2 seminars (+ 598)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If TAing: 1 seminar + 598 + 375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Apply for grants, fellowships, and summer TA-ships (including GRM, GSRM, Smithsonian)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>If not TAing: 2 seminars (+ 598)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If TAing: 1 seminar + 598 + 375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• File ATC + Nomination of Master’s Committee Form</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• File MA thesis</td>
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Normative Time to Master’s ATC: 6 quarters  
Max Time to Master's: 7 quarters
### The Steps to the PhD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer after Y2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Begin Preparation for Written Qualifying Exams</td>
<td>• If ATC, conduct dissertation research, writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Develop 2 Reading Lists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 4</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall (Last chance for Written QE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• If you haven’t defended, prepare for Oral QE</td>
<td>• If ATC, conduct dissertation research, writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Apply for Dissertation research grants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 seminars as needed: 375 &amp; CCS 597 &amp; or 596 in QE preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Form QE Committee early</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Submit Reading List to Advisor &amp; CCS Grad Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Submit Form to Nominate Faculty Committee for Written Qualifying Exam Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Winter (Recommended)</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Work on submitting 2nd journal article manuscript for publication in peer-reviewed journal</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Conduct dissertation research, writing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Last chance for Oral QE</td>
<td></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEARS 5-7</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Dissertation work</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• If you haven’t defended, prepare for Oral QE</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Normative time to PhD ATC: 4 yrs. (12 quarters), including MA coursework. Normative Time to PhD: 7 yrs. (21 quarters) Max Time to PhD Degree: 8 yrs. (24 quarters)

*PhD requires one year of TA experience (even if you are fully funded). TAs can only take 1 seminar per quarter; GRM awardees can take 2 seminars + thesis (598) or QE prep units (597)
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. WHAT FOLLOWS IN THIS SECTION IS HOW STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO FULFILL ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR 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 Winter of the third year, but no later than Fall 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 of a literature review based on a reading list of about 50 texts drawn up by the student in consultation with his/her/their dissertation advisor. (See attached Department Readings that may be used as a source to prepare your lists).

- **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.

- 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 be carried out via presentation of the actual work or Digital representation (PPT, Prezi, film, story board).

3) Examination Committee. Prior to taking the exams, an examination committee should be formed.

• The examination committee should be constituted no later than one month preceding the examination.
• In consultation with the advisor, students choose two other committee members, one of whom may hold 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.
• Note that all advisors whose students are taking the exam during the same quarter should work together to develop Question 1. The student should work closely with the advisor to discuss the focus of Question 2. From these processes, the chair of the examination committee prepares the final questions for the written examination. These questions should be shared with the rest of the examination committee and the department’s Graduate Committee.

4) Reading Lists. Students should start working on their list in Summer before their 3rd year.

• The student should circulate a first draft of the QEs bibliography to the examination committee at least a month (preferably sooner) prior to when the exam will be administered. 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.

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 Winter quarter of the third year).
• Students will receive the exam questions in the morning on Monday of the first week of the quarter and should submit their answers on Monday of the third week at the established time.
• 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.
• Late submissions will not be considered. Students who do not submit on time will need
to re-take the exam based on different questions in the following quarter.

6) Submission of the exams.
   • The written exams should be sent in PDF (and in Word if so required by the advisor) by the due date, with copy to each member of the committee, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the GSAO.

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 a pass/no pass basis. The committee will assess a student’s writing, critical, and analytical skills as evidenced in their knowledge of the field and their application of appropriate theories and methods for addressing research questions within their area of expertise.

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 proposal. 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 count 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 Proposal
   • The dissertation proposal of approximately 30 pages, excluding bibliography, will be presented to the entire dissertation committee in a two-hour meeting. To pass the dissertation proposal 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.
   • Each doctoral committee member must receive a hard copy of the proposal at least 2 weeks before the oral exam.
   • It is the responsibility of the student to schedule the oral exams at least 6 weeks in advance, in consultation with all members of the committee and the Director of Graduate Studies. The department’s Administrative
The proposal should:
- Elucidate the candidate’s research project: What research questions and materials will be used to answer your questions?
- Give an overview of the extant literature, indicating why the study will advance the field.
- Delineate and justify the methodologies, theories and critical approaches of the project. Why is this approach appropriate for the topic under consideration?
- Justify the project: Why this topic? Why now? What will be its original contribution to the field?
- Offer a tentative outline of the structure of the dissertation.
- Provide a timeline of the research to be conducted.

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 20-minute presentation and respond productively to questions, concerns, and suggestions their examiners may have about the dissertation proposal.
- 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. This stage is also often colloquially referred to as ABD (All But Dissertation).

Students who have advanced to candidacy should provide a copy of their dissertation proposal to the SAO for inclusion in their files. Each subsequent year following advancement to candidacy, students should submit a dissertation project update as part of their self-assessment.

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

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. The committee may recommend
additional items to add to the list, which the student will be responsible for reading. The student may also propose adding new texts. The Graduate Committee considers it a living list. Therefore, new texts may be added on a regular basis. This applies to lists for both QE questions. The Graduate Committee should be notified of any changes to the list.

- **How should we approach Question 1 and Question 2 differently?**
  - For Part One, you should be able to demonstrate your familiarity with the field. As stated above, in consultation your advisors, you 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. A final copy of the bibliography should be submitted at least 1 month prior to the exam.
  
  - Part Two of the exam is more specific to your field. This question should be closely 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 theories, and a well-supported argument. Therefore, it is assumed that selected texts from your areas of specialization lists will be included.

**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?**

  Students are advanced to candidacy and awarded the Candidate in Philosophy degree (C.Phil.) upon successful completion of the written and oral qualifying examinations. 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 when we report that you passed the exams and showing it on Graduate Division’s records would depend on their turn-around. It usually takes no more than 7-10 working days (provided everything is in order).

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**Suggested List Of Texts For PhD Qualifying Exams**

Students should be prepared to write on at least 25 texts from the cumulative lists that we organize here by areas of interest.

**1) 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**

**III) History, Culture, and Language of the Americas**


**See also CRITICAL TEXTS.


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


APPENDIX 4
Guidelines For Students’ Progress Assessment

UCLA

CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ DEPARTMENT OF CHICANA/O AND CENTRAL AMERICAN STUDIES

Every year, faculty who teach graduate courses and/or advise graduate students are asked to evaluate students’ progress. They are asked to comment on the following areas.

- Please indicate if your evaluation of the student is on the basis of her/his/their 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
- development of thesis topic

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

Plans After Graduation
Comment on discussions with student about their plans (i.e. academia, museums, non-profits, etc.)

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/their academic and/or professional performance over the past AY.
- Steps taken towards solving potential problems.

Similar sections. Cut and paste sections from your vita into the sections of this report.

Areas of Scholarly Interest
[INSERT a short paragraph]

Awards and Fellowships (applied to and granted or denied)
[INSERT a bullet point list]

Conferences attended as presenter in the past year.
[INSERT a bullet point list]

Teaching and/or research assistantships you have undertaken (including the past summer).
[INSERT a bullet point list]

Teaching portfolio development (i.e. courses you will be able to teach in a university setting).
[INSERT a bullet point list and description]

Teaching pedagogy and philosophy
Publications. List the works you published or submitted for publication in the past year.

Other professional achievements and activities

Other community engagement activities

Ph.D. Qualifying Exams

M.A. Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation

Summary of Accomplishments as a CCS Graduate Student

Goals for coming year

Long-term Goals

Reflections on the Program

https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/labor/bargaining-units/bx/contract.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 https://grad.ucla.edu/gss/appm/aapmanual.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 per week 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 https://grad.ucla.edu/gss/appm/gsr10stepscale.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](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 Counsel [https://grad.ucla.edu/gss/appm/aapmanual.pdf](https://grad.ucla.edu/gss/appm/aapmanual.pdf).
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.

You may find the entire document at:
https://grad.ucla.edu/asis/library/academicrights.pdf