



**Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)
Annual Report 2024-25**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Per Senate Bylaw 180, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) advises the University President and all agencies of the Senate on matters regarding research and learning related to graduate education. One of CCGA's chief responsibilities, as delegated by the Regents, is the authority to review and evaluate campus proposals for new graduate programs and schools that require approval of the President. In addition, CCGA establishes basic policies and procedures for coordinating the work of the various graduate councils and divisions, recommends to the Assembly minimum standards of admission for graduate students, reviews policies applied by graduate councils, reviews policies concerning relations with educational and research agencies, and approves UC graduate courses as system-wide courses to be listed in divisional catalogs.

Review of Proposed Graduate Degree Programs

During the 2024-25 academic year, CCGA approved 13 program proposals and declined one. Five of the approved proposals were Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDPs), and two proposals had PDST (Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition). Six additional proposals will carry over to the 2025-26 year, due to being received late in the academic year. Those will be assigned in the fall.

Programs Decided Upon During the 2024-25 Year

Campus	Program	Date Received	Date Approved	SSGPDP
UCB	Addition of an MA in Logic and the Methodology of Science (resubmission)	9/24/24	11/6/24	No
UCD	Online Masters in Preventative Veterinary Medicine and One Health	2/14/25	5/7/25 (Rejected – Returned to Campus)	Yes
UCD	MA in the Study of Religion	5/15/25	7/2/25	No
UCI	Master of Education Sciences with a Concentration on Learning Analytics	4/3/24	12/4/24	Yes
UCI	Master of Public Administration	12/11/24	7/2/25	Yes
UCI	PhD in Health, Society, and Behavior	4/7/25	6/4/25	No
UCI	Master of Applied AI for Science	4/7/25	7/2/25	Yes

UCLA	Master of Global Public Affairs	2/28/25	6/4/25	No
UCSB	Addition of an en route MS to the PhD in Environmental Science and Management (resubmission)	4/18/25	6/4/25	No
UCSD	MAS in Precision Medicine Therapeutics in Oncology	7/10/24	12/4/24	Yes
UCSD	Master of Urban Studies and Regional Planning	7/10/24	12/13/24	No
UCSD	PhD in Urban Studies and Planning	7/10/24	12/4/24	No
UCSD	En Route MS to the PhD in Astronomy	17/31/24	12/4/24	No
UCSF	Part-Time MS in Global Health Sciences	5/31/24	1/8/25	No

The committee worked diligently with campuses and faculty throughout the year to help them craft and improve proposals that would meet the University's expectations of excellence.

Proposals to be Carried Over to 2025-26

Campus	Program	Date Received	Status	SSGPDP
UCD	En Route MA to the PhD in Education	6/23/25	On Hold Until October	No
UCD	Master's of Engineering in Water Resources Engineering	8/13/25	On Hold Until October	Yes
UCD	Master's of Engineering in Sustainable Transportation	8/13/25	On Hold Until October	Yes
UCI	En Route MA – Criminology, Law and Society	7/17/25	On Hold Until October	No
UCM and UCSF	BS/MD	5/20/25	On Hold Until October	No
UCR	Online Master of Business Administration	6/24/25	On Hold Until October	Yes

Topics of Interest in 2024-25

Graduate Student Employment and Contracts

A UC–union agreement was reached in fall 2024, extending the contract for GSRs and TAs until 2026. That notwithstanding, concerns regarding the blurred line between academic work and employment continued, especially in laboratory environments. Faculty were encouraged to understand Weingarten rights and the implications for meetings involving graduate student employees. The committee affirmed a brief statement asserting that students are students first, and employees second.

CoGD and Graduate Education Advocacy

CoGD worked with External Relations to raise awareness about the importance of graduate education among Regents and legislators. Emphasis was placed on increasing visibility and support for graduate education, especially regarding state and federal funding. The Council of Graduate Deans is working on a paper documenting the value of graduate studies and is exploring ways to increase master's degrees and improve time-to-degree.

The Future of Graduate Education Report

The committee discussed how this report is being implemented on the campuses, with some concern about how it may be adapted to the activities originating in Washington, DC. Ongoing Executive Orders pose risks to the University and the research enterprise; consultation continues between Academic Affairs, UC Legal, and campus research offices. VP for Research and Innovation Theresa Maldonado requested CCGA support in crafting Regents' talking points on research impacts.

Academic Calendar Conversion

Three members of CCGA were on the [name of common calendar workgroup], so discussions around a systemwide calendar alignment continued throughout the year. The common calendar workgroup estimated the total cost of transitioning from the quarter to the semester system at \$100 million–\$370 million. Individual campuses would incur \$35 million–\$80 million each. The calendar workgroup completed mock semester calendars and transition plans and developed a mechanism for faculty and divisional feedback.

Financial Overview

A \$272 million reduction to the core UC budget was confirmed for 2025–2026, driven by lower state tax receipts and redirected funds for Palisades fire relief. Graduate deans reported 1,400 existing funding commitments under five-year contracts, necessitating contingency language in future offer letters to address budget uncertainties.

Workgroup Activities

Three small subgroups worked on updating the Handbook and Compendium language for clarity in three areas this year:

[En Route Master's Degrees](#)

[Double-Counting of Units](#)

[Substantive Change](#)

International Graduate Students

Student visa cancellations and reinstatements were discussed and advice sent forward to the Senate leadership regarding students finishing their work remotely. UC experienced an 11 percent drop in undergraduate and graduate international student enrollment in April, though 157 out of 159 cancellations were restored by May. A fund was established to secure a top immigration law firm for unresolved cases.

Consultation and Engagement

2024-25 was a dynamic period for the CCGA, marked by significant discussions on budget challenges, policy revisions, and the ongoing impact of national and systemwide changes on graduate education. The committee actively engaged with Academic Senate leadership, the Provost, the Vice President for Research and Innovation, and others to navigate complex issues, including budget cuts, international student visa concerns, and the future of graduate programs. Through its partnership with IRAP, CCGA was informed about the assessment of Online Program Management (OPM) practices, which went to APC in the spring.

UC Online Executive Director Rolin Moe and former CCGA Chair Erith Jaffe-Berg advocated for extending online language courses to graduate students. Members generally supported this as a means of increasing access and inclusivity despite concerns about the quality of online language learning.

As a result of state legislation allowing CSU to offer some doctoral programs, that university system will be submitting up to 10 doctoral program proposals to UC for review in August. Criteria and a process for submitting proposals were developed during the year with the help of IRAP.

The Instructional Modalities Task Force has delivered its report; a successor task force will launch in spring or fall.

Members advocated for systemwide guidelines on AI use and plagiarism definitions.

The Provost visited CCGA in April and shared her strategies for supporting graduate education and her vision moving forward in the current political climate.

CCGA had two members participate in the MRU reviews for UCORP for the UC Observatories and the Bioengineering Institute of California.

The Regents requested a review of systemwide P&T processes, with a focus on expedited investigation phases, and a case monitoring system for faculty discipline. A special taskforce submitted recommendations which will go out for systemwide review in the fall.

Several special Assembly meetings addressed information security, salary adjustment timing, and health premium spikes.

Announcements made for new UC President (JB Milliken), a new UCR Chancellor, and a new UCSB Chancellor.

A breach of confidentiality led to curtailed communication between senior leadership and the Senate.

Following up on last year, CCGA partnered with UCEP to create proposed language related to awarding degrees posthumously. This language was approved by both committees and sent forward to Council, which endorsed it.

The UCAD (University Adaptation to Disruptions) Task Force was formed to assess serious threats and develop response options across academic programs, workforce resizing, growth objectives, and funding realignment.

The University announced the elimination of stand-alone diversity statements in hiring, with ongoing efforts to clarify how DEI efforts will be recognized in promotions and merit advancements.

The annual Grad Slam competition was held on April 29 in Sacramento, with a UCSF student winning and a Merced student receiving the People's Choice Award.

The committee held some preliminary discussion on the importance of WSCUC accreditation and potential shifts in accreditation decision-making power to states.

Acknowledgements

CCGA is grateful to have had valuable input from - and exchange with - these UCOP and campus consultants and guests over the past year: Katherine S. Newman, Provost; Theresa Maldonado, Vice President of Research and Innovation; Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies; Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy; Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy; Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst; and Council of Graduate Deans representative Peter Biehl (UCSC). Thanks, too, to Academic Council Chair Steven Cheung and Vice Chair Ahmet Palazoglu, and Senate Executive Director Monica Lin. Tremendous thanks to our analyst, Fredye Harms, without whom the committee would not function, and to our student representatives - Ryan Manriquez and Rebecca Ruiz – who participated actively, offering campus-level perspectives on graduate education challenges and concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bisley, Chair (UCLA)
Partho Ghosh, Vice Chair (UCSD)
Ilan Adler (UCB)
Ele Grandi (UCD)
Tonya Williams Bradford (UCI)
April Thames (UCLA)

John Abatzoglou (UCM)
Sarita See (UCR)
Sutanu Sarkar (UCSD)
Wayne Steward (UCSF)
Alex Simms (UCSB)
Chad Saltikov (UCSC)