



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

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In spring of 2024, CCGA developed a statement that concisely defines the role and responsibilities of faculty with regard to graduate students. That statement is as follows:

The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) prepared this statement of intent and principles to help clarify the roles and responsibilities of faculty in guiding graduate students and assessing academic progress.

The fundamental commitment to education is the basis for the faculty's purview over academic programs, policies, and standards. UC faculty authority for oversight and assessment of academic progress is infrangible and applies whether or not a graduate student is supported with a fellowship; whether or not a graduate student is employed as a researcher, teaching assistant, or in any other capacity; and/or whether or not a graduate student is enrolled in a traditional or independent study course. UC faculty oversee and have plenary authority over all graduate programs, degrees, and courses, and are responsible for setting disciplinary and interdisciplinary standards and assessing the academic progress of students they advise. Mentoring, collaboration, and creative discovery may occur through a wide variety of activities and methods, on the basis of both formal and informal interactions. These activities and assessments are intended to benefit graduate students, in their pursuit of advanced degrees, by helping to assure that students remain on track and on schedule, have clear goals and expectations, and establish themselves as experts and leaders in their chosen fields.

This statement was endorsed by Academic Council on May 22, 2024. The committee hopes that it will serve as a valuable resource in negotiations with academic employees, helping to clarify and reaffirm the central role of faculty in graduate education.