

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
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University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

October 1, 2015

**AIMÉE DORR**  
**PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

**Re: Approval of Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology degree program at UC Irvine**

Dear Aimée:

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the “Compendium”), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC Irvine’s proposal to establish a new Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology degree program.

Because this is a new degree, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA’s approval, the Academic Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA’s report on its review of the new degree, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President’s approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Daniel Hare".

J. Daniel Hare, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council  
Senate Director Baxter  
Senate Executive Directors



**COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)**

Jutta Heckhausen, Chair  
[heckhaus@uci.edu](mailto:heckhaus@uci.edu)

**ACADEMIC SENATE**

University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

August 24, 2015

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR MARY GILLY**

Dear Mary:

During its August 13, 2015 teleconference, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted to approve UC Irvine's proposal to establish a new Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology degree program. The proposed master's program will be administered by the Department of Psychology and Social Behavior (PSB); the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society (CLS); and the Center for Psychology and the Law.

The program consists of a weeklong orientation course on campus, and six required and seven elective courses. Aside from a one-week introductory course, the program will be offered online. Tuition will be approximately \$12,000 a year. The anticipated time-to-degree is two years. The proposed plan is to start by admitting 15 students, with up to 35 admitted a year by year four.

All three reviewers agreed that the proposal is very strong, with superb faculty, strong curriculum, and high anticipated demand. Furthermore, the realistic budget, profit expectations, and successful model in CLS are strong indicators that the program will meet the expectations of a self-supporting program.

The department has responded promptly and thoroughly to all concerns and requests for additional information. Concerns raised by CCGA and UCPB regarding overload teaching were addressed. Furthermore, the program is using a model that has enabled a similar program on the campus (CLS) to grow while allowing faculty research to thrive.

As you know, CCGA's approval is usually the last stop on the Academic Senate side of the systemwide review and approval process. However, when a new degree title is proposed, it must be approved by the Assembly (or the Academic Council if the Assembly is not meeting within 30 days) before it may move forward. Given its status as a new graduate degree title, CCGA submits UC Irvine's proposal to establish a Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology degree title. For your information, I have included CCGA's final report as an enclosure. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jutta Heckhausen".

Jutta Heckhausen, Ph.D.  
Chair, CCGA

cc: Dan Hare, Academic Council Vice Chair  
CCGA Members  
Hilary Baxter Academic Senate Executive Director  
Kimberly Peterson, Academic Planning Analysis Manager  
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst  
Natalie Schonfeld, Irvine Division Senate Executive Director  
Adriana Collins, Irvine Division Council Analyst

Enclosures (1)

UCI proposal for Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology  
Lead Reviewer's Report  
Tania Israel

Description of proposed program

UCI is proposing a self-supporting Master of Legal and Forensic Psychology. The program consists of seven required and seven elective courses. Aside from a one-week introductory course, the program would be offered online. Tuition will be approximately \$12,000/year. The anticipated time-to-degree is two years. The proposed plan is to start by admitting 15 students; up to 35/year by year 4.

The proposed masters program will be administered by the Department of Criminology, Law, and Society (CLS); Department of Psychology and Social Behavior (PSB); and the Center for Psychology and the Law. UCI has a successful Master of Advanced Study in Criminology, Law, and Society administered by CLS Department. Ph.D. students in CLS and PSB will not take courses in the masters program

Chronology of review process

1/20/15 – Proposal approved by UCI Senate Cabinet  
3/4/15 – Assigned to lead reviewer  
5/6/15 – Discussed at CCGA meeting; questions/concerns identified; lead reviewer requested additional information from the department  
5/7/15 – Response received from the department  
5/14/15 – Received UCPB report on the proposal  
6/2/15 – CCGA discussed UCPB report, lead reviewer requested additional information from the department  
6/3/15 – Response received from the department  
6/3/15 – Lead reviewer started soliciting reviewers  
7/31/15 – 3 reviews received  
8/13/15 – CCGA members discuss reviews and vote to approve the proposal

Reviewers (comments identified by reviewer number)

The lead reviewer contacted six potential reviewers (3 suggested by the department, 3 not suggested by the department). Only the 3 suggested by the department responded to the request.

1. Gail Goodman – UCD, suggested by dept.
2. Steven Clark, UCR, suggested by dept.
3. Daniel Krauss, external (Claremont McKenna College), suggested by dept.

Strengths of the proposed program

- UCI faculty have considerable expertise and national visibility in psychology and law. (1, 2, 3)
- Quality and rigor of the curriculum. (1, 2, 3)
- Anticipated strong applicant pool. (1, 2, 3)
- Facilities are adequate to support the online instruction. (1, 2)
- Realistic budget and profit expectations. (2, 3)
- Modeled on successful MA program in CLS. (1, 3)
- Online teaching format will make program accessible to target audience. (1)

- Integration of science, practice, and policy. (1)
- Keeping masters student separate from doctoral students will help all graduate students meet their goals. (2)

#### Weaknesses of the proposed program

- Program will require support, including hiring additional faculty. (1)
- May underestimate the work involved in modifying courses for masters students and for online format. (2)
- Not clear what is the *specific* niche for a graduate with a masters in Legal and Forensic Psychology. (2)

#### Additional suggestions or questions

- Will there be opportunities for interested students to participate in research or engage with researchers? (1)
- Consider adding coursework on additional topics: jury selection and jury decision-making; corrections/prisons/re-entry/recidivism; ethics; other additional electives. (2, 3)

#### Recommendation and rationale

I recommend we approve the proposal. All three reviewers agree that it is an overall strong proposal with a superb faculty, strong curriculum, and high anticipated demand. Furthermore, the realistic budget, profit expectations, and successful model in CLS are strong indicators that the program will meet the expectations of a self-supporting program. Given the faculty expertise and prominence, the proposed program seems like it will advance integration of research, practice, and policy in forensic psychology.

The department has responded promptly and thoroughly to all concerns and requests for additional information (see "communication with UCI" document). The concerns raised by CCGA and UCPB regarding overload teaching were addressed with information that faculty have a choice regarding participating through a reduction in teaching (filled with teaching associates) or an overload, and most have chosen reduction in teaching. Furthermore, they are using a model that has enabled a similar program on the campus (CLS) to grow while faculty research continues to thrive. Information about GSR support and budget were provided to address questions about time and cost of developing online courses. The department also offered details regarding enrollment goals and evaluation of the program.