

UC DAVIS GRADUATE COUNCIL POLICY
Legacy Degree Requirements

GC2000-02 (Rev.02)

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Revised – December 11, 2020

It is Graduate Council's policy that a student has the choice to either fulfill Graduate Council's approved program degree requirements that were in effect at the time he/she first enrolled in a program ("legacy"), or to choose the newly adopted Graduate Council approved degree requirements, after a program makes changes to requirements that a student must satisfy to obtain a Master's or a Ph.D. degree in a program.

This will allow the student to benefit from changes that may assist her/him in completing degree requirements, and to allow long-term planning of a program of study. In addition, this will prevent the student from being forced to comply with changes that have been made after enrollment.

When changes in degree requirements are submitted to Graduate Studies and are pending approval at the time the student is offered admission, programs have the responsibility to inform prospective students of any pending degree requirement changes that may be instituted by the time of initial registration.

If changes to the degree requirements are approved while a PhD student is enrolled in a program, but prior to the student taking the qualifying examination, the student may elect to continue under the "old" degree requirements, or switch to the new degree requirements for completion of his or her program. PhD students who have passed the qualifying examinations will continue to complete their program under the degree requirements in effect at the time the student took their qualifying exam.

For Masters students, the student may elect to continue under the "old" degree requirements, or switch to the new degree requirements for completion of his or her program, until they advanced to Candidacy. Masters students who have advanced to Candidacy will continue to complete their program under the degree requirements in effect at the time the student advanced.

The student should make the decision about which degree requirements to follow after consultation with the graduate adviser and (if applicable) the major professor. In general, students should be given 2-quarters to declare their choice to program from the time the new degree requirements are posted and s/he is informed about the new requirements, or before the student advances to Candidacy (for Masters students) or sits their Qualifying Examination (for PhD students), whatever comes first. Once the choice is announced, or when the student decides to participate in an examination that indicates their degree requirement choice, the student's decision to continue under the thus chosen degree requirements is binding and the student must then comply with that set of degree requirements in order to graduate.