

UC DAVIS GRADUATE COUNCIL POLICY
Oversight of Graduate Degree Programs in Professional Schools
Approved May 6, 2009

GC2009-01

In response to the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) reconsideration of authority over the review and oversight of master's and doctoral programs offered through professional schools,¹ Graduate Council has adopted the following policies:

1. Graduate Council retains the right to review and make recommendations regarding any school-specific policies or practices inconsistent with Graduate Council policies.
2. Graduate Council retains its right and obligation to review and make recommendations regarding the establishment, transfer, consolidation, or discontinuance of all graduate programs (in accordance with the Davis Divisional and Systemwide regulations).
3. Graduate professional schools have authority over course-approvals and grading policies, but are otherwise subject to the same Graduate Council oversight as any other graduate program, in accordance with SOR 105.2.a².
4. Graduate Council will base decisions to delegate full oversight of a graduate degree³ to a professional school on the existence of rigorous and effective review structures within a given professional school by an external professional agency that parallel those used for other graduate programs overseen directly by Graduate Council, *and* on the existence of a Faculty Council or other faculty governing body that serves oversight functions analogous to those of Graduate Council.
5. The oversight by Graduate Council for all non-delegated graduate degree programs offered by a professional school shall be consistent with other graduate programs.
6. Graduate Council has delegated the responsibility to PRC to review on a regular basis all non-delegated professional graduate degree programs. Degree programs that are subject to external review and accreditation may notify PRC of a review and request that the external review be accepted in lieu of a standard PRC review. If PRC determines that a degree program undergoes external accreditation or other rigorous review that parallels that used for other graduate programs, PRC can seek the approval of Graduate Council to accept the external review report on which PRC recommendations will be based. Subsequent PRC review recommendations must comment on the quality of the external review process in assessing the quality of graduate education.
7. The Office of Graduate Studies shall perform normal administrative functions for all non-delegated graduate degree programs. Should the Dean of Graduate Studies delegate any administrative responsibilities to a non-delegated graduate degree program, he/she will report on and Graduate Council will review these delegated decisions annually.

¹ Schumm, Chair, CCGA to Brown, Chair Academic Council, August 12, 2008.

² In the discussions of oversight issues by UC Academic Senate Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), they considered SOR 105.2.b (<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/bylaws/so1052.html>), which exempts professional schools (those offering coursework at the graduate level only) from Divisional Academic Senate oversight of courses. CCGA sought advice from the UC Academic Senate Rules & Jurisdiction Committee on whether SOR 105.2.b prevented Graduate Councils and CCGA oversight; UCR&J provided advice that the graduate professional schools retain their own authority over course-approvals and grading policies, but are otherwise subject to the same Senate oversight as any other graduate program, in accordance with SOR 105.2.a.

³ Full oversight includes admissions, academic progress of students, degree completion certification, curriculum development, and general academic management.