

## **UC DAVIS GRADUATE COUNCIL POLICY**

**GC-2018 – 02 (Rev. 02)**

### **Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language**

**Approved – May 25, 2018**

**Amended – August 24, 2018**

**Amended – March 6, 2019**

The ability to understand spoken and written English and to communicate orally and in writing in English is an expected skill set to be mastered by all graduate students enrolled at UC Davis as soon as possible. With this policy Graduate Council wishes to affirm the long-held practice at UC Davis that all graduate students are required to enroll in an English language course (“ESL course” UWP225 or UWP226 or equivalent, i.e. one course from the UWP 102 or 104 series or UWP 298) during their first academic year, unless they meet any of the following conditions:

1. The student has an undergraduate or graduate degree from an approved English-medium institution, as confirmed by the UC Davis Office of Graduate Studies;
2. or the student has a TOEFL (iBT) score of 105 or higher or IELTS score of 7.5 or higher;
3. or the student scored 24 or higher on the TOEFL (iBT) writing and 23 or higher on the TOEFL (iBT) speaking portion of the test.

All Graduate Programs at UC Davis are required to assess their incoming students, based on the above criteria, for their need to take ESL courses and to ensure identified students enroll in the above-listed English language courses in their first year.

Students who fall into the ESL category may not advance to candidacy until these course requirements are fulfilled. By signing the candidacy form Graduate Advisers attest that students required to take ESL courses have done so with a passing grade.

Graduate Programs are encouraged to add the ESL course requirements to their Degree Requirements documents. New or amended degree requirements submitted to Graduate Council must refer to this policy.