

PRINCIPLES FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION DURING COVID-19

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Public Health.** The health and safety of UCI employees and students remains our top priority. No faculty member, staff member, nor student should be compelled to be on campus while teaching and/or learning during terms impacted by COVID-19 in keeping with UCI campus-wide policy.
2. **Equity and Inclusion.** UCI is committed to equity and inclusion in its graduate programs. UCI is a public institution committed to the success of its large population of first generation, under-represented, and otherwise minoritized students.
3. **Educational Continuity.** UCI is committed to graduating a new class of graduate and professional students each year. Thus, our programs should adapt to ensure that all are making progress towards graduation in a timely manner.
4. **Instructional Quality.** UCI is committed to ensuring that all graduate students in our academic programs have the opportunity to learn and demonstrate the competencies necessary for their programs.
5. **Excellence in Graduate Education.** UCI is committed to delivering the highest quality graduate education and producing scholarship that sustains UCI's reputation for excellence and is consistent with our values.

STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES

1. Decisions about testing, physical distancing, and course scheduling and delivery will be based on the best scientific, medical, and epidemiological evidence as interpreted by UCI experts, the Orange County Department of Health, and California and Federal guidelines.
2. Decisions about reopening educational environments should be made in consideration of all programs in all schools and the Graduate Division. No program should make decisions that interfere with the orderly progress of another program's curriculum.
3. Faculty, staff, and students will work together to limit the negative impacts of COVID-19 as much as possible with known information at the time. At all times, the well-being of the graduate student population will be at the forefront of guidance for 2020-2021 graduate curricular and co-curricular activities.
4. Some instructional activities for graduate students are planned to be on campus with others remote in 2020-2021. In-person instruction may swiftly move to remote, consistent with public health guidance.
5. Due to limited space and facilities, assignments for educational and co-curricular activities that can only be conducted in person will be prioritized; graduation needs for advanced students and cohort-building for early students will be considered.
6. Some training requires physical proximity between individuals that is closer than that directed by physical distancing recommendations (e.g., clinical work, some performing arts). In those circumstances, the faculty in charge should follow specific protocols, approved by the Dean or Dean's delegate, with safety measures that are consistent with infection control guidelines (masks, gowns, gloves, face shields) for prevention of spread of diseases.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

1. All planned teaching activities must take into account the current public health context and respond accordingly.
2. Decisions about on-campus activities will be impacted by the latest evidence and expert recommendations regarding COVID-19, campus policies, and coordination with UCI Housing and best practice recommendations for accommodations.
3. Graduate education spans research, teaching, and learning. As such, major decisions regarding graduate research will come under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor for Research, graduate teaching under the dual guidance of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, and graduate learning under the guidance of the Vice Provost for Graduate Education.
4. Regardless of the content of this document, the Chancellor retains ultimate authority for activities on the UCI campus.

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