

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
ERIN HESTIR, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL  
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**AUGUST 18, 2021**

**TO: GRADUATE GROUP CHAIRS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRS**

**FROM: ERIN HESTIR, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL  
CHRIS KELLO, INTERIM VICE PROVOST AND DEAN OF GRADUATE EDUCATION**

**RE: GUIDELINES ON ONLINE MODALITY FOR GRADUATE SEMINAR COURSES-FALL 2021**

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Graduate Council (GC) and Graduate Division have received inquiries about graduate seminars for which guest speakers are anticipated. Guest speakers from outside UC Merced may visit campus and give talks while wearing a face covering. However, it may be preferable for guests to give their talks remotely via zoom. Given our current conditions, GC and Graduate Division issue the following guidelines **for the Fall 2021 semester**:

- For seminar courses listed and approved as in-person only, individual meetings may be offered remotely when a guest speaker from outside UC Merced is presenting remotely.
- Instructors are responsible for receiving prior approval from their Graduate Group Chair, and for making sure that students are given advance notice of which date(s) there will be remote guest speakers.

CC: Graduate Council  
Senate Office