

GRADUATE COUNCIL (GC)**AGENDA****Friday, February 21, 2025****11:30am – 1:00pm****ZOOM**

Documents available in [Box](#)
[Graduate Council Duties](#)

I. Consent Calendar – Chair Abatzoglou – 11:30am – 11:40am

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [February 7 Draft Meeting Minutes](#)
- C. [A Request from SNS Professor Baxter for Exception to GC's February 3, 2025 Deadline to Submit a Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Proposal, Effective Fall 2026](#)
- D. SSHA Petition for Graduate Student to Teach Upper Division Courses
[Beylin Natalie PSY 156 202520](#)
[Majeed Rabia PSY150 202520](#)
- E. Proposed Graduate Group Revisions to University Catalog AY 2025-2026 Content
[Bioengineering](#)
[Quantitative Systems Biology](#)
- F. Courses
[COGS - 250 - Cognitive Science Graduate Seminar](#) (Modify Existing; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X315 - Single Subject Methods: English and Language Arts](#) (Modify Existing; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X315.2 - Single Subject Methods - English Language Arts](#) (New; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X316 - Single Subject Methods: History and Social Science](#) (Modify Existing; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X316.2 - Single Subject Methods - History & Social Sciences](#) (New; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X317 - Single Subject Methods: Math](#) (Modify Existing; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X317.2 - Single Subject Methods – Mathematics](#) (New; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X318 - Single Subject Methods: Science](#) (Modify Existing; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X318.2 - Single Subject Methods – Science](#) (New; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X320 - Foundations of Education in PK-3](#) (New; Fall 2025)
[EDUC - X321 - Education and the Inclusive Classroom](#) (New; Fall 2025)
[EDUC - X322 - Child Development and Learning: Conception through PK-3](#) (New; Fall 2025)
[EDUC - X323 - Health and Wellness: Educating the Whole Child for PK-3](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X330 - Integrated Literacy, ELD, and Humanities in the P-TK Classroom](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X331 - STEAM in the P-TK Classroom](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X332 - Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X333.1 - Teaching Performance Assessment Support Seminar 1](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X333.2 - Teaching Performance Assessment Support Seminar 2](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X334 - PK-3 Practicum](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X340 - Integrated Literacy, ELD, and Humanities in the K-3 Classroom](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X341 - STEAM in the K-3 Classroom](#) (New; Spring 2026)
[EDUC - X342 - Data Driven Decision Making IFSPs, IEPs, and Transitional Plans](#) (New; Spring 2026)

[EDUC - X380 - Bilingual Authorization - Spanish BLA Fieldwork Experience](#) (New; Summer 2025)
[EDUC - X485 - AP Content and Pedagogy for Teachers](#) (New; Summer 2025)
[GSTU - 210 - Research Proposal for Advancement to Candidacy](#) (Modify Existing; Fall 2025)
[PH - 285 - Introduction to Health and Biomedical Ethics](#) (New; Fall 2025)

Requested Action: Approval of the Consent Calendar.

II. Chair’s Report – John Abatzoglou – 11:40am – 11:50am

A. February 11 Divisional Council Meeting

III. Discussion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Chair Abatzoglou – 11:50am – 12:00pm

At the February 7, 2025 GC meeting, members discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) in relation to academic integrity. Currently, the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) oversees academic honesty and misconduct through the [Academic Honesty Policy](#) and the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Additional information for addressing AI in courses & syllabi can be found [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to discuss and determine the next steps.

IV. Consultation with Associate Dean of the Graduate Division Sayantani Ghosh and Business Intelligence Analyst Jessica Chackoria – 12:00pm – 12:20pm

A. UC Graduate Student Experience Survey (UCGSES) Results
B. UC Merced Retention and Completion Results

V. Waiver Policy for In-Person Graduate Defenses – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:20pm – 12:30pm

Faculty with ADA-based accommodations to work remotely have concerns about the policy requirement in the [Graduate Policies & Procedures Handbook](#) (page 39) mandating in-person attendance at graduate defenses. Some faculty members make every effort to attend defenses in person, but often times they are unable to do so and are then required to fill out last-minute waivers so that they can attend the defenses remotely.

Requested Action: Members to discuss and determine a resolution.

VI. [APO's Response to Senate Feedback on the Proposed MAPP Revisions](#) – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:30pm – 12:35pm

In Fall 2024, all Senate committees were invited to review the proposed revisions to sections 2013, 2014, 2053, and 2054 of the Merced Academic Personnel Policies & Procedures (MAPP). These sections govern appointments and review for Senate faculty in the Professor and Teaching Professor series. Vice Provost for Academic Personnel Hansford responded to the Senate’s feedback on the proposed revisions to MAPP Sections 2013, 2014, 2053 and 2054. All Senate leads have been invited to review the proposed MAPP revisions and share any substantive concerns.

Relevant documents include the following:

1. A formal [cover memo](#) which includes a summary of VPAP Hansford’s responses and select revisions.
2. [Clean](#) and [tracked-changes](#) versions of MAPP 2013 (new revisions highlighted in yellow).
3. [Clean](#) and [tracked-changes](#) versions of MAPP 2014 (new revisions highlighted in yellow).
4. [Clean](#) and [tracked-changes](#) versions of MAPP 2053.
5. [Clean](#) and [tracked-changes](#) versions of MAPP 2054.

Requested Action: GC members to review the linked documents. If there are any noted concerns, they will be submitted to fpaul@ucmerced.edu by Friday, February 28, 2025.

VII. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Abatzoglou – 12:35pm – 12:45pm

- A. [Proposal for a new Non-Degree Program from the UCM Division of Professional and Continuing Education \(PACE\): PK-3 Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Specialist Instruction Credential \(Campus Wide\)](#)

The proposal has been reviewed and endorsed by PACE. The WSCUC Substantive Change Specialist has been consulted, and all WSCUC requirements have been met.

The guiding policy governing the establishment of a non-degree program is available [here](#).

Additional resources to help guide the Senate’s review may be found at the links below:

[Preparing the UCM Extension Non-Degree Proposal Professional and Continuing Education \(PACE\) Handbook](#) (beginning on page 3)

The Division of Professional and Continuing Education hopes to implement this proposal in Fall 2025.

GC is a lead reviewer.

At the January 24, 2025 GC meeting, Vice Chair Beattie agreed to serve as lead reviewer. Her comments are available [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to review the proposal and lead reviewer’s comments. If there is consensus, voting members vote to approve the draft memo. The GC Analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, February 21, 2025**.

- B. [Proposal for a Dual Degree Program Leading to a Bachelor of Science \(B.S.\) Degree from UCM and Doctor of Medicine Degree from UCSF](#) (Campus Wide)

The proposal packet includes:

- The dual degree proposal itself, which follows Appendix W (pp.83-84) of the September 2023 revision of the [Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs Handbook](#).
- A letter from the Executive Committee of each of UC Merced’s three schools. I thank them for their reviews, which have strengthened the proposal.
- The BS/MD Dual Degree Supplement. This document responds to questions and need for additional context raised by the Executive Committees that could not easily be accommodated in the proposal itself because the desired information does not align with the questions in Appendix W.

- Letters from the Interim Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, the University Librarian, and Chief Information Officer.
- The UCM-UCSF MOU.

The following documents are available to help guide the review:

- [Academic Degree Programs: UGC's Review/Approval Policy](#)
- [Procedures for Submitting Proposals for Graduate Emphasis Areas and Graduate Programs](#)
- [CCGA Handbook](#) (Appendix W, page 83) and the [Compendium](#) (Section II.B1. Establishment of New Graduate Degree Programs, and Appendix A of this document)
- [Policy and Procedures for Establishing Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Degree Programs \(Jan. 2024\)](#)

GC is a lead reviewer.

At the January 24, 2025 GC meeting, Member Frank agreed to serve as lead reviewer. Her comments are available [here](#).

Requested Action: Members to review the proposal and lead reviewer's comments. If there is consensus, voting members vote to approve the draft memo. The GC Analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, March 7, 2025.**

- C. [Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 170 and Rescission of Senate Bylaw 192](#) (Systemwide)
These amendments propose the elimination of UCOPE, with its remaining responsibilities reassigned to UCEP. This restructuring reflects the evolving landscape of preparatory education oversight, as many of UCOPE's core functions have become redundant. With the discontinuation of the University's Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) in 2022, individual campuses have taken on the management of their own placement assessments, reducing the necessity for a dedicated systemwide committee.

Requested Action: GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Friday, February 28, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC's official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, March 7, 2025.**

- D. [Policy on Assurance of Safety Standards](#) (Campus Wide)
The proposed policy aims to establish a comprehensive process for identifying and addressing safety deficiencies and non-compliance issues. This policy is intended to promote a safe and supportive environment for all members of the UCM community, including faculty, staff, students, and visitors. It will apply to all academic and research activities, encompassing teaching and research laboratories, fieldwork, shared research support facilities, and machine shops used for academic and research-related purposes.

Requested Action: GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Thursday, March 13, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC's official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, March 21, 2025.**

E. [Proposed Revisions to APM-500, Recruitment](#) (Systemwide)

The policy revisions respond to the need to address two new bills signed into state law that add and amend sections 92612.1 and 92612.2 of the California Education Code, effective January 1, 2025 (reference Senate Bill (SB) 791, Postsecondary education: academic and administrative employees: disclosure of sexual harassment, and California Assembly Bill (AB) 810, Postsecondary education: hiring practices: academic, athletic, and administrative positions).

Requested Action: GC to decide whether to opine. If opining, identify a lead reviewer. The lead reviewer’s comments will be circulated via email by Friday, March 21, 2025, and will serve as the basis for GC’s official response to the Senate Chair.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, April 4, 2025.**

VIII. VPDGE Hratchian’s Report - 12:45pm – 12:55pm

- A. Graduate Visitation Day
- B. Graduate Admissions Update

IX. Any Other Business – 12:55pm – 1:00pm