

# UCLA *Graduate Council*

Dear Graduate Students,

In the event that COVID-19 restrictions continue and impact the mode of delivery (i.e. remote instruction) at UCLA through Fall Quarter 2020, the Graduate Council has approved to extend a number of temporary policy changes, which were implemented for Spring Quarter 2020. We know this is an extremely stressful time for all of you, and we are trying to acknowledge and address the many different ways you are impacted. We will also be communicating to all departments and programs about policy changes and recommendations.

*Graduate students may have difficulty meeting the Spring 2020 thesis/dissertation filing deadline of June 12, 2020. The Graduate Council has extended the Winter filing deadline for theses, dissertations and capstone projects to June 22, 2020 ([Thesis & Dissertation Filing Requirements](#)) and is working with Graduate Division and the Registrar to implement this change.*

*Graduate students may have difficulty assembling their committee in-person for their thesis or dissertation defense.. The Graduate Council voted to allow remote participation of all committee members and the student for defenses. Dissertation and thesis defenses may be remote through Fall Quarter (December 18, 2020).*

*The current leave of absence policy is no more than 3 quarters leave. The Graduate Council has voted to recommend that leaves in Fall quarter due to COVID-19 do not count against their 3 quarters.*

*Graduate students may wish to take more than one Summer or Fall course as S/U instead of letter grading. The Graduate Council has voted to allow departments, schools or IDPs to allow graduate students who are in good standing to enroll in more than one course for an S/U grade. This includes courses within the major, with the stipulation that the academic program must agree to accept these S/U-graded courses toward fulfilling degree requirements. Students who are not in good academic standing should consult with the department advisor regarding the petition process.*

*Graduate students requiring clinical training/rotations may be unable to complete these requirements in a timely manner. The Graduate Council may be able to extend the time to complete degree requirements. Besides the thesis/capstone extension, students can petition to extend the time to complete clinical work if the clinical work is a part of a course requirement. This includes the Master of Social Welfare, the Master's & Credential in Education, and other programs that require enrollment in coursework for fieldwork, observation and participation, and teaching experience. Departments should work with their students to determine if a petition is needed. In some cases, assigning a grade of Incomplete and providing additional weeks to complete the required hours may be the best option.*

*Graduate students may be experiencing financial stress in these uncertain times. There are [emergency loans](#) through the Loan Services office. The [Economic Crisis Response Team](#) may also be able to provide assistance.*