

**From:** Vice Provost and Dean Robin L. Garrell and Chair Ioanna Kakoulli

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2015 10:40 AM

**Subject:** Graduate & Postdoctoral Mentoring and Professional Development: Policies, Report and Conference on Nov. 20



Graduate Council  
Graduate Division

Dear Colleagues,

As the leaders of the UCLA Graduate Council and Graduate Division, we are writing to share important information related to your roles as mentors and advisers to graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. This message also invites you to a UCLA faculty conference on November 20 that will focus on best practices in graduate and postdoctoral mentoring. Details and a link to the event are provided later in this message.

At its last meeting of the 2014-15 Academic Year, the Graduate Council reaffirmed long-standing university policies on graduate student advising and mentoring. These policies (full text available [here](#)) remain as relevant today as they were when implemented in 1993.

*Policy 1 - **Promoting Progress:** Each department and Interdepartmental Degree Program shall develop its own model of timely progress, annually review students' progress with respect to this model and, if needed, take steps to encourage better progress.*

*Policy 2 - **Faculty Adviser:** Throughout his or her entire graduate program, every graduate student shall have a faculty adviser (or faculty advisory committee) whose interests are as similar as possible to those of the student.*

We encourage all faculty and programs to review these policies, and to have conversations about whether their current processes are aligned with them and could be strengthened.

We also would like to bring to your attention the 2015 report of the **UCLA Graduate Professional Development Workgroup**. Chaired by Professor Felix Schweizer and convened by Vice Chancellor Janina Montero and Vice Provost/Dean Robin Garrell, the workgroup was asked to assess the professional development needs of UCLA graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. The workgroup's report provides enlightening perspectives on our graduate students' and postdoctoral scholars' experiences; it also identifies effective tools for accommodating their career aspirations, which might extend outside the academy. Among its findings, the report states that "a culture shift is necessary amongst faculty and administrators to accept campus standards for effective professional development and, in many cases, to embrace non-academic career outcomes as desirable, valid choices for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars." We encourage you to read the full report, available [here](#).

On November 20, the Graduate Council will host a conference on mentoring for student success. Breakout groups will discuss and report on best practices in allied fields, and together we will identify next steps that departments, schools and the campus could take to support the success of our graduate students and postdoctoral scholars while at UCLA and in their future careers. *Several new campus awards will also be announced!* Please indicate your attendance at the event by going to this link: <https://uclagradsupportconference.eventbrite.com>.

We look forward to seeing you on November 20.

With best regards,

**Ioanna Kakoulli**  
2015-16 Chair  
Graduate Council

**Robin L. Garrell**  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education &  
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