

From: Vice Provost and Dean Robin L. Garrell and Graduate Council Chair Andrea Kasko

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 4:17 PM

Subject: Deferred Matriculation Option for Students who have Accepted or Plan to Accept Offers of Admission to Graduate Programs for Fall 2020

UCLA

**Graduate Division
Graduate Council**

To: Deans, Department Chairs, and IDP Chairs

Dear Colleagues,

To give students and departments as much flexibility as possible in the uncertain and fluctuating circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the Graduate Council has voted to enable departments and graduate programs to allow students who have accepted offers of admission to defer their matriculation for one quarter (Winter 2021) up to a maximum of one year (Fall 2021). Departments may choose to offer this option to all applicants who have accepted offers of admission (SIRd), to admitted applicants who have not yet SIRd but have expressed interest in delaying matriculation, or to subsets of such applicants on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. If the latter, the department should set clear criteria that are consistent with Prop. 209 and federal regulations. For example, discrimination based on national origin is prohibited.

If an admitted student defers, the department/program is expected to provide the same or a higher level of financial support as in the original offer package. The department will need to state this commitment when communicating with the student about a potential deferral.

In deciding to allow students to defer matriculation, a department/program should recognize that this may impact the number of new applicants they are able to admit next year.

In terms of resources, the usual criteria for carrying forward block grant funds will apply, but exceptions to carry forward a higher percentage will be considered. For students who have been offered Cota-Robles or Graduate Opportunity Fellowships, the Graduate Division will uphold those commitments.

The Graduate Division is mapping out processes to implement this change and will provide information shortly. If your department/program wishes to defer matriculation for admitted graduate students, please contact Asst. Dean Nickey Woods (nwoods@grad.ucla.edu) in the Graduate Division.

Please forward this information to the staff and/or faculty in your department.

With best wishes,

Robin L. Garrell

Vice Provost for Graduate Education and
Dean of the Graduate Division

Andrea M. Kasko

Chair of the Graduate Council