

From: Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education Brian Kite <Dean_DGE@bp.e.ucla.edu>

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2026 3:32 PM

To: McDonald, Paris <pmcdonald@grad.ucla.edu>

Subject: Deferred Matriculation Option for 2026–2027 and Future Graduate Admits



Key takeaways:

- Graduate programs may offer deferred matriculation beginning with the 2026–2027 admission cycle and in future cycles
- Each department or program may decide whether to offer deferrals

To:

The Graduate Council, in collaboration with the Division of Graduate Education (DGE), has approved a standing policy allowing UCLA graduate programs to offer deferred matriculation. Under this policy, each department or program may decide whether to offer deferrals for admitted students. Approved deferrals may range from one academic quarter to one academic year.

This option is intended to provide flexibility for admitted students facing extenuating circumstances while preserving departmental discretion.

Eligible Students

Effective immediately, departments and programs may submit deferral requests for

2026–2027 admitted students to the DGE. Programs may consider requests from applicants who have submitted a Statement of Intent to Register (SIR), as well as from those who have not yet submitted an SIR but have indicated that they would like to delay matriculation. Deferrals, however, will be processed only for applicants who have been admitted and who submit an SIR.

Deferral Process

All deferral requests must be submitted no later than the first day of instruction for the applicant's original term of admission. Requests submitted on or after the first day of instruction will require approval from a DGE associate dean.

For instructions on submitting deferrals and revising funding offers, please review the [Deferred Matriculation Policy Knowledge Base article](#).

Funding Offers and Financial Planning

Departments are encouraged, but not required, to maintain the original financial support package for students who defer. If a department does not intend to maintain the original funding commitment, applicants must be clearly informed that approval of a deferral does not guarantee future financial support awards or student employment.

If a department or program approves a deferral and chooses to maintain the original funding package, that commitment must be stated clearly in the deferral offer. Where applicable, approval from the research advisor, faculty graduate adviser, or other appropriate faculty authority is required.

Departments should take approved deferrals into account when planning future admissions and funding commitments.

For students offered Cota-Robles or Graduate Opportunity Program awards, those commitments will be honored by the department and the DGE.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting UCLA's graduate students.

Sincerely,

Brian Kite

Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education

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