

From: Cindy Palmer
To: ["Akula Venkatram"](#); [John S Levin](#); [Jennifer Doyle](#); [Ameae M Walker](#); [Barry Mishra](#); [Sarjeet S Gill](#); [Kurt Schwabe](#); ["David Lo"](#)
Cc: ["Eilene Montoya"](#); [Gabrielle Brewer](#); [Alaxis B Timothy](#); ["Ana Kafie"](#); [Alice Zuyen Chavez](#); [Sarah Miller](#); [Leondra Michelle Jacobs](#)
Subject: Request for systemwide review of proposed amendments to SR 682 (under "Residence and Length of Study) - due Jan 5, 2015
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2014 12:02:00 PM
Attachments: [14-15_Regulation 682_due January 5, 2015.pdf](#)

Dear Committee Chairs,

I write on behalf of Chair Wudka to invite comment on proposed legislation put forward by the University Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs to amend Senate Regulation 682. At its June 2014 meeting the 2013-14 Academic Council approved distribution of this proposal for fall divisional review. This review is intended to engage the Academic Senate in discussion of any issues that may need to be resolved before this proposal is submitted to the Assembly.

CCGA's amendment proposes a change to a provision in SR 682 specifying the interval between the filing of advancement to candidacy for a Master's degree and the conferral of the degree. The revision would eliminate the requirement that a Master's degree candidate file in the academic term prior to the one in which the student anticipates completing his or her work for the degree, allowing individual graduate divisions to decide the timeframe for advancement to candidacy. CCGA's memo explaining its reasoning and the proposed revision is attached. UCR&J has advised that the proposed legislative language is consistent with the Bylaws and Regulations of the Academic Senate.

Please submit comments to senate@ucr.edu by Monday, January 5, so that Executive Council can discuss the issue at its meeting on January 12. Your input will form the basis for the Riverside response and will assist system-wide Council in determining whether to submit legislation to the Assembly for action in February. As always, no committee is required to opine if it considers this subject to be outside its charge.

Cheers,
Cindy

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**Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)  
Proposed Amendment to Academic Senate Regulation 682**

CCGA is proposing a change to a provision in [SR 682](#) specifying the interval between the filing of advancement to candidacy for a Master's degree and the conferral of the degree. The revision would allow individual graduate divisions to decide the timeframe for advancement to candidacy.

**Current version:**

Except as provided in SR 694, no graduate student will be recommended for any degree except upon completing at least one year of residence at the University of California, devoted to such a course of study as the Graduate Council concerned regards as a proper year's work, and upon complying with such other regulations as may apply. A minimum period of study of one term in the case of the Master's degree must intervene between formal advancement to candidacy and the conferring of the degree. [See SRs 610, 612, 690.] (Am 9 Mar 83)

**Proposed revision:**

Except as provided in SR 694, no graduate student will be recommended for any degree except upon completing at least one year of residence at the University of California, devoted to such a course of study as the Graduate Council concerned regards as a proper year's work, and upon complying with such other regulations as may apply. ~~A minimum period of study of one term in the case of the Master's degree must intervene between formal advancement to candidacy and the conferring of the degree.~~ **In the case of the Master's degree, the Graduate Council may set the terms and deadline for formal advancement to candidacy in anticipation of the conferring of the degree.** [See SRs 610, 612, 690.] (Am 9 Mar 83)

An inquiry from the San Diego campus asked CCGA to explain the rationale of the interval specified for the filing of advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree. Strict adherence to the terms of the regulation requires frequent requests for exceptions at San Diego, requests that can potentially be denied (leading to the need for the student to register for an additional semester in order to receive the degree). At at least one campus, the interval is treated with some discretion and is actually less than one full term; but the regulation does not authorize such discretion.

CCGA has found no reason for the one-term interval to be enforced by the Academic Senate. It is possible that this provision is an accidental remnant of partially revised obsolete practices. At one time, it seems, most graduate students were in a class described as not candidates for degrees until they formally advanced to candidacy for a specific degree shortly before completion of the degree. Nowadays faculty (and funding agencies) consider all regular graduate students to be pursuing a specific degree in a specific program.

CCGA consulted two Graduate Deans about why advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree mattered at all. They persuaded us that it is indeed useful to have a formal verification of compliance with requirements at some point in advance of adding a student to the degree list for a particular term. But they could suggest no reason why the minimum interval of "one term" was needed. CCGA believes that the mechanism and the timing for advancement to candidacy for the Master's degree should be left to the discretion of the divisional Graduate Council (in consultation with their Graduate Division).