To Be Adopted

Professional Development Requirement for Graduate Students

PRESENT

GR1.6  Professional Development Requirement for Graduate Students

PROPOSED

GR1.6  In addition to the specific degree requirements listed below, professional development training is a requirement of for the M.A., M.S., M.F.A. and Ph.D. degrees. Each degree program determines the format, content, and extent of its training. A program may provide all of its training independently, or it may partner with other programs or utilize services provided by other campus units or professional organizations. Training must be for unit credit and may be delivered as a single course or as portions of multiple courses.

(En ___)

Justification:

Professional development training for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers has been receiving increased attention at both campus and national levels. This is due, in part, to a growing awareness by universities that students who neglect the non-research aspects of their portfolios can place themselves at a disadvantage in increasingly competitive job markets with limited numbers of traditional research faculty positions. Meaningful experience in teaching and service as well as demonstrated abilities to communicate well and to navigate ethical and interpersonal issues are increasingly valued by prospective employers.

For all of these reasons, an increasing number of universities with which UCR competes for incoming graduate students and for subsequent job placements, have instituted professional development opportunities for their students. Because we fully expect these trends to continue, and because we believe that many of our own programs continue to lag behind their peers in terms of professional development opportunities, the Graduate Council supports making professional development training a requirement of all MA, MS, MFA, and PhD programs at UCR. Doing so will promote the competitiveness of UCR graduate programs and assist our faculty in obtaining funding from and satisfying the requirements of ever-more demanding federal agencies.

The Graduate Council does not desire to dictate the specific curriculum that any program should use, believing instead that it is the programs that can most effectively tailor this training to the specific needs of their own students. It is important to note that some but not all of our graduate programs already provide this type of training to their students.

Approved by the Graduate Council: September 29, 2011
Approved by the Graduate Division: October 12, 2011
The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the wording to be consistent with the code of the Academic Senate: October 19, 2011