

February 28, 2020

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM CHAIRS

FACULTY GRADUATE DIRECTORS

RE: Notice in Change to UCSC Senate Manual, Appendix D: Master's Plan I and Plan II Language

Dear Colleagues,

Graduate Council has considered language in the UCSC Senate Manual Appendix D (Section VI) on Master's Plan I and Plan II, and has amended that language to clarify the distinction between Plan I and Plan II requirements. Attached is the new revised language as it will appear in the UCSC Senate Manual, Section VI. In particular, please note the clarifying language that a Thesis Plan I masters requires a research thesis, while a Capstone Plan II masters has a capstone requirement, which may be a comprehensive exam, an individual project, or a group project.

Graduate Council review of graduate program statements for the 2020-21 catalog is underway, and the Council anticipates that some programs, *particularly those offering both Plan I and Plan II masters*, may need to revise their program statements to align with the revised language in Appendix D. Graduate Council will review the 2020-21 program statements currently under review, and will be asking that programs make changes to align with this language. All others will be asked to review their program statements, particularly those masters programs with both Plan I and Plan II masters, and make needed changes to align their program statements with Appendix D in next year's program review cycle.

Questions can be directed to Graduate Council analyst Esthela Bañuelos (esthela@ucsc.edu).

Sincerely,



Donald Smith, Chair
Graduate Council

Enc: Revised Language, UCSC Senate Manual, Appendix D, Section VI

cc: PBSci Dean Koch
Social Sciences Dean Mitchell
Humanities Dean Stovall
Interim Arts Dean Warburton
BSOE Dean Wolf
Acting VPDGS Williams
VPAA Lee
Interim CP/EVC Kletzer
Senate Chair Lau
Senate Director Mednick
Department Managers
Staff Graduate Advisers
RJ&E Chair Pedrotti

Language Amended by Graduate Council (February 2020)

UCSC Appendix D

VI. The Master's Degree. (EC 31 Aug 08)

A. In accordance with SR 682, the minimum residence requirement is three quarters at the University of California, of which at least two must be spent at the University of California, Santa Cruz campus. At least one of the three quarters must occur after the student has applied for admission to candidacy for the Master's degree. (SR 724) Residence is established by satisfactory completion of one course per term. (CC 1 Aug 77, 31 Aug 98, 31 Aug 99)

B. Programs for the Master's degree are subject to SR 720-726. (CC 31 Aug 98, 31 Aug 99) C. Students pursuing academic Master's Degrees (M.A. and M.S.) will pursue either a thesis (Plan I) or capstone (Plan II) curriculum. Individual programs may adopt one or both plans. Candidates for either plan are subject to guidance by the program's faculty respecting the distribution of the student's workload among departments. Subject to the approval of the Academic Senate, programs are to develop M.A. and M.S. degree requirements appropriate to the field of study. These requirements must meet the following minimum standards. (EC 31 Aug 06)

C.1 Minimum Number of Units Required

Plan I: Must require a minimum of 35 quarter units of graduate and upper division courses, of which no more than 15 units may be upper division undergraduate courses. Of the required graduate-level courses, a minimum of 20 units must be courses other than supervised research, except by special exception of the Graduate Council. This exception shall be provided to the program as a whole, rather than case-by-case to individual candidates. Plan II: Must require a minimum of 35 quarter units of graduate and upper division courses, of which no more than 15 units may be upper division undergraduate courses. Supervised research classes may not count towards the satisfaction of minimum unit requirements for Plan II candidates.

C.2 Minimum Requirements: Master's programs may be offered under the thesis (Plan I) or capstone (Plan II) plan.

Thesis Plan I: A Master's research thesis, viewed as acceptable by a thesis committee appointed by the program faculty, is required of each candidate. The completed thesis must be filed with the Graduate Division by the end of instruction in the term in which the candidate expects the degree to be awarded.

Capstone Plan II: Under the capstone plan, students complete a capstone requirement, which may be a comprehensive exam, an individual project, or a group project. A comprehensive final examination or project in the major subject, of such nature and conducted in such manner as may be determined by the department faculty or faculty group concerned, is required of each candidate. The nature and timing of the comprehensive exam must be approved by the faculty of the department or faculty group concerned and published in the program requirements. For group projects, there must be a mechanism for identifying and evaluating the contributions of each participating student. The nature of the Plan II capstone is to be approved by the Graduate Council for the program as a whole. (CC 1 Aug 77, 1 Feb 88, 6 Apr 06; EC 12 May 97)

D. A Committee to read and evaluate the Master's thesis is appointed by the candidate's program, and the program shall at the same time notify the Division of Graduate Studies of the membership of the Committee by the end of the second week of the quarter in which the degree is to be granted. The majority of the membership of a thesis reading committee shall be members of the Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate. A change in the membership of the committee, once appointed, may only be made with the approval of the Graduate Dean. (En 29 May 91; CC 31 Aug 15; EC 12 May 97)

E. The student must submit an Application for the Master's Degree to the program for review by the end of the second week of the quarter in which the student intends to receive the degree. (CC 31 Aug 08)