

UC Davis: Office of Graduate Studies

September 23, 2009

RE: Revised Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

Consistent with the proposal developed by the UC graduate deans and endorsed by the Academic Council, University of California President Yudof recently approved the revision of the University of California Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration on July 30, 2009. The revised policy is effective as of the fall 2009 academic term.

The Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration promotes continuous enrollment of graduate academic and professional degree students by providing an appropriate enrollment incentive. The policy recognizes that these students may need to perform work away from the University but seeks to minimize the number of students who allow their registration status to lapse. As a result, the policy strengthens the relationship between the University and its graduate students. Both the eligibility criteria and reduced fee level are predicated on the fact that students undertaking approved independent coursework or research outside of California have access to substantially fewer instructional resources and student services than do students who reside within the state, and should therefore qualify for a meaningful fee reduction.

Effective for the fall 2009 academic term, academic and professional program graduate students who find it necessary to undertake coursework or research related to their degree program outside of California during their tenure at the University are eligible for reductions in fees. Students in self-supporting graduate programs are not covered by this policy. Students may apply for In Absentia Registration status under the following circumstances:

- Academic doctoral students must have advanced to candidacy by the time the In Absentia Registration status would begin.
- Academic master's and graduate professional degree students must have completed at least one year of coursework by the time the In Absentia Registration status would begin.
- Special cases within the above two categories can be approved only by exception at the discretion of the appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean.
- Students who seek In Absentia Registration beyond the initial term of In Absentia Registration status must re-apply for each subsequent period.

The appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean (in accordance with campus delegation of authority for degree programs) may grant In Absentia Registration status for up to two years for academic doctoral students and up to one year for academic master's and graduate professional degree students. Longer periods can be granted at the discretion of the appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean.

Students shall observe the following requirements while enrolled In Absentia:

- Be enrolled full-time at their UC campus of origin for the duration of their In Absentia Registration.
- Be enrolled in a UC academic doctoral, master's or graduate professional program (except self-supporting) for the duration of their In Absentia Registration.

Students are eligible to apply for and receive University fellowships and research assistantships, but not teaching assistantships during the In Absentia Registration period.

Students shall be assessed the following fees while registered In Absentia:

- 15 percent of the combined University Educational and Registration Fee.
- The full UC Davis student health insurance fees (or provide evidence of alternative insurance coverage according to customary campus practice). Students registered In Absentia will have access to all benefits associated with their student health insurance plan.
- The full amount associated with campus-based fees.
- Nonresident tuition, if applicable.
- Professional school fees, if applicable.

Authority for implementation of this policy and for granting exceptions rests with the graduate dean unless campus authority for a degree program has been delegated to a professional school dean.

Additionally, UC campuses are required to eliminate the provision for research leaves currently granted to some doctoral students. A primary objective of the updated policy is to ensure the continuous enrollment of graduate students throughout the completion of their degrees. Allowing graduate students to take “research leaves” that permit them to leave the University for significant periods of time as an alternative to continuous enrollment for graduate students in need of conducting research or completing coursework away from the University is inconsistent with the policy and such leaves are to be eliminated. As such, effective the winter 2010 academic term, Planned Education Leave Program (PELP) for graduate and professional students will no longer include research as a reason for the leave. All other reasons for PELP remain in effect.

For a complete version of this revised fee policy, frequently asked questions and the In Absentia form, go to <http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/index.html>.

UC Davis Student Fee tables are available at <http://budget.ucdavis.edu/studentfees>.

For specific questions, contact the Office of Graduate Studies, (530) 752-0652, or in person at 250 Mrak Hall.

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