

Graduate Division Profile

The UCSF Graduate Division encompasses all graduate academic degree programs and all graduate students in the four schools. The Interim Dean of Graduate Studies, Patricia Calarco, has the responsibility for the administration of graduate degree programs and is the institutional official responsible for the administration of Division affairs in accordance with academic policies established by the Academic Senate and the Graduate Council. The office of the Dean of Graduate Studies also has administrative responsibility for the appointment of postdoctoral scholars, the academic review of graduate programs, and dispute resolution involving graduate students and postdoctoral scholars

The primary mission of the Graduate Division is to serve UCSF by supporting and improving its graduate programs while enhancing the educational experience of graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. The quality of graduate education is also enhanced by our goals of increased fund raising, increased local and national visibility of our graduate programs, and improved academic and private sector job opportunities for graduates and postdoctoral scholars.

The quality of UCSF graduate programs is inextricably linked to the reputation and endeavors of its research faculty. Thus, by specific efforts to improve the research enterprise we serve a broader function in improving the national visibility of the campus and enhancing our recruitment of top students. This is facilitated by intensive external program reviews, financial support of students and by centralizing much of the recruitment of disadvantaged students for the graduate programs. In the inter-disciplinary world of modern science, the Graduate Division also fosters the development of selected new graduate programs, and manages program growth in areas of state and national need, resulting in concomitant growth in faculty FTE.

Another important function in determining the success of our graduate and postdoctoral training programs involves careful monitoring of several measures, such as the fairness of access, the time to degree, the near and long-term placement of graduates. Other measures contributing to success include the climate a student encounters at UCSF, opportunities for teaching, and opportunities for academic enrichment, e.g., preparing for a qualifying exam, writing a dissertation or grant, and improving job readiness skills.

The Graduate Division is the administrative home for admission, progression and advancement of graduate students, and, as well, has responsibility for the appointment of postdoctoral scholars and the development of campus policies affecting them. In support of its administrative functions, the Graduate Division strives to streamline the necessary procedures mandated by the University of California and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, our accrediting body. Where possible paper flow is minimized, information and forms are handled on line, and web and email access are used for communication and monitoring of requirements.

The Dean of the Graduate Division shares overall responsibility for graduate academic matters and postdoctoral scholar appointments with the Graduate Council, a standing committee of the San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate. The Graduate Council helps to set policies and standards for admission to graduate status, establishes policies related to graduate degrees,

approves changes in degree requirements, and approves all graduate degree programs. The Graduate Division also pursues a number of joint goals with our Alumni Association, such as increasing job opportunities and broadening development efforts.

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