

Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Group COVID-19 Policy

Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Group's COVID-19 Policy is designed to address and mitigate the impacts that the current circumstances are imposing on IH students' intersecting roles—as students, teachers, researchers, and employees. The Emergency Educational Continuity Policy implemented by the UCM Graduate Council on April 14, 2020 provided “graduate groups flexibility in facilitating students' continued timely progress towards their degrees.” Graduate Council's Policy, “grants automatic approval for Graduate Groups to modify their Program requirements, provided they meet the minimum requirements set forth in Graduate Policies and Procedures Handbook (GPPH).”

Using the flexibility granted by the Graduate Council's mandate, IH's policy seeks to promote the health and success of graduate students, graduate education, and the education that IH students provide to our undergraduates. IH Leadership has been in sustained conversations with IH graduate students and graduate student representatives to discuss student concerns so that an IH policy can be crafted to help ensure their academic success during the current uncertainties, as well as their ability to deliver undergraduate education. To support graduate students and their academic progress IH is implementing the following policy, which will extend one (1) year after classes resume to normal:

1. Academic Extensions:

- a. For current full-time doctoral students who have not yet advanced to candidacy, IH is extending by one year the maximum amount of time to advance to candidacy before being deemed to be making unsatisfactory academic progress.
- b. For current full-time doctoral students who have already advanced to candidacy, IH is extending by one year the maximum amount of time to complete their degree before being deemed to be making unsatisfactory academic progress.
- c. For full-time master's students, IH is extending by one year the number of calendar years of enrollment before being deemed to be making unsatisfactory academic progress.
- d. These extensions will increase by one year the normative (i.e., maximum) time to degree for current full-time graduate students.

2. TA/IOE Assignments:

- a. TAs have the right to determine the format and method of instruction for their discussion sections and their participation in course lectures by communicating it to the IH Education Policy Committee and IOE.
- b. IH Students serving as IOE have the right to determine the format and method of instruction for their courses by communicating it to the IH Education Policy Committee and the Department Chair that their course is being offered under.
- c. TAs are permitted to hold all office hours remotely if they so choose.

3. Funding: Every IH student who is guaranteed funding and was eligible for funding in Spring 2020 will be guaranteed a total of 6 years of funding provided they maintain academic eligibility. (*This funding commitment is an IH recommendation to SSHA, with policy follow-up by August 2020.*)

4. Exam Formats: IH Students have the right to revise the formats of written defenses/exams and oral defenses related to advancement and degree completion to allow them to be taken remotely. Revised formats must be agreed upon by students, proctors, advisor, and IH Chair or Vice Chair.