

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative to the Regents  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200*

September 8, 2020

## CHAIRS OF SENATE DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES:

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630

Dear Colleagues,

I am forwarding for systemwide Senate review revisions to Senate Regulation 630 (the “senior residency requirement”) proposed by the University Committee on Educational Policy.

Please submit comments to the Academic Senate office at [SenateReview@ucop.edu](mailto:SenateReview@ucop.edu) by November 16, 2020 to allow us to compile and summarize comments for the Academic Council’s November 23 meeting. As always, any committee that considers these matters outside its jurisdiction or charge may decline to comment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Mary Gauvain, Chair  
Academic Council

Encl:



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)  
John Serences, Chair  
jserences@ucsd.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
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Tuesday, April 7, 2020

**RE: Proposed revision of senior residency requirement, SR 630, and interpretation of ‘residency’ as outlined in SR 610**

Dear Kum-Kum,

Senate Regulation 630 imposes requirements on how many of a student’s final 45 units (30 semester units) must be taken ‘in residence’ at a student’s home campus. Given this focus on the final units earned before completing a bachelor’s degree, this regulation is often referred to as the ‘senior residency requirement’. In January of 2020, the UCEP representative from UC Santa Cruz raised concerns over the interpretation of the senior residency requirements outlined in SR 630.A and 630.D.

Senior residency and the relationship between 630.A and 630.D.

For reference, the current text of SR 630 is reproduced below and can also be found using the following link:

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/rpart3.html>

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section and SR 614, 35 (or 24 semester) of the final 45 (or 30 semester) units completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is to be taken. (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 23 May 01)
- B. When two or more campuses of the University of California have approved a joint program of study, a student enrolled in such a program may meet the Requirement stated in Paragraph A by completing the requisite number of units in courses offered at any or all of the participating campuses. The student's program of study must be approved by the Provost, Dean, or equivalent officer of the School of College in which the degree is to be awarded. (En 13 May 97; Am 10 Nov 04)
- C. A further exception to the rule stated in paragraph (A) above is made in the case of students who meet the residence requirement as provided in [SR 614](#). (Am 10 Nov 04)
- D. Except when Divisional Regulations provide otherwise, a student in the Education Abroad Program, the UC Washington, D.C., Program, the UC Center in Sacramento Program, or the NRS California Ecology and Conservation Course, which are systemwide courses, may meet the residence requirement in accordance with the following provisions: (Am 27 May 99; Am 10 Mar 04; Am 10 Nov 04; Am 10 Apr 17)

1. A student who completes the graduation requirements while in a systemwide course may satisfy the requirements stated in paragraph (A) in the final 45 (or 30 semester) units preceding the student's entrance into a systemwide course. (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 10 Mar 04; Am 10 Apr 17)
2. Subject to the prior approval of the department concerned, a student who is enrolled in a systemwide course may satisfy the residence requirement by earning 35 (or 24 semester) of the final 90 (or 60 semester) units, including the final 12 (or 8 semester) units, in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is taken. (Am 7 Jun 72; Am 9 Mar 83; Am 10 Mar 04; Am 10 Apr 17)

System wide Senate Regulation SR 630.A specifies how 'senior residency' is generally satisfied, and SR 630.D has special provisions for a student who is enrolled in a system-wide program (e.g. UCDC, UCEAP, etc.).

During discussions at UCEP, we focused in part on confusion about how 630.A and 630.D relate to system-wide courses: should 630.D be treated as "in addition to 630.A", or should 630.D be treated as "instead of 630.A"?

To give one example of why these provisions can be confusing: if a student completes 30 credits in residence, then 10 credits in UCEAP, and then 5 credits in residence, they do not satisfy the conditions of 630.D.1 (because they didn't graduate while in EAP) or 630.D.2 (because they didn't complete 12 units after returning). However, this student would satisfy 630.A (because they completed at least 35/45 final units at the home campus). Thus, it is unclear if such students should be treated as having met the senior residency requirement.

More generally, the original intent of the senior residency requirement was to ensure that a student took their highest level of coursework (i.e. the core upper division courses for their major) at their home campus. While this seems reasonable, students now often take various lower division general education courses during their senior year, especially in impacted majors where a lack of available seats forces them to prioritize completing major requirements. Thus, UCEP questioned whether tying residency to the senior year justifies the complexity of SR 630, especially in light of changes in how students opt to flexibly fulfill their general education and upper division requirements.

#### Proposed revision to Senate Regulation 630.

To address confusion surrounding the interpretation of 630.A and 630.D, particularly as it pertains to system-wide courses, UCEP proposes the following revision of SR 630. We believe that the revision simplifies the regulation while still respecting the principle that students should satisfy the majority of their upper division requirements via courses offered by their home campus:

Original Text:

~~A. Except as otherwise provided in this section and SR 614, 35 (or 24 semester) of the final 45 (or 30 semester) units completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is to be taken. (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 23 May 01)~~

- ~~B. When two or more campuses of the University of California have approved a joint program of study, a student enrolled in such a program may meet the Requirement stated in Paragraph A by completing the requisite number of units in courses offered at any or all of the participating campuses. The student's program of study must be approved by the Provost, Dean, or equivalent officer of the School of College in which the degree is to be awarded. (En 13 May 97; Am 10 Nov 04)~~
- ~~C. A further exception to the rule stated in paragraph (A) above is made in the case of students who meet the residence requirement as provided in SR 614. (Am 10 Nov 04)~~
- ~~D. Except when Divisional Regulations provide otherwise, a student in the Education Abroad Program, the UC Washington, D.C., Program, the UC Center in Sacramento Program, or the NRS California Ecology and Conservation Course, which are systemwide courses, may meet the residence requirement in accordance with the following provisions: (Am 27 May 99; Am 10 Mar 04; Am 10 Nov 04; Am 10 Apr 17)~~
- ~~1. A student who completes the graduation requirements while in a systemwide course may satisfy the requirements stated in paragraph (A) in the final 45 (or 30 semester) units preceding the student's entrance into a systemwide course. (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 10 Mar 04; Am 10 Apr 17)~~
  - ~~2. Subject to the prior approval of the department concerned, a student who is enrolled in a systemwide course may satisfy the residence requirement by earning 35 (or 24 semester) of the final 90 (or 60 semester) units, including the final 12 (or 8 semester) units, in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is taken. (Am 7 Jun 72; Am 9 Mar 83; Am 10 Mar 04; Am 10 Apr 17)~~

Revised Text:

*Except as provided in SR 614, 45 (or 30 semester) upper division units completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is to be taken. With the approval of their campus CEP, major programs may also impose residency restrictions on some of their program requirements.*

The first clause of the revised text, “*upper division units completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is to be taken*” removes the focus on the “*the final*” credits that a student earns and instead emphasizes the importance of completing “*upper division units*” via coursework at their home campus. This change respects the original intent of SR 630 while simultaneously recognizing the increased need for flexibility in the timing of general education and upper division major requirements.

The second clause in the revised text, “*With the approval of their campus CEP, major programs may also impose residency restrictions on some of their program requirements*” ensures that major programs can impose additional restrictions such that certain courses – e.g. their capstone sequence or a specific performance/lab course – must be completed via coursework at the student’s home campus (as opposed to completed during an education abroad experience or at another campus). This empowers major programs to exercise control over which courses must be completed on the home campus, while still increasing general flexibility in the timing of upper division coursework.

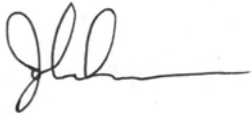
Finally, SR 610 deals with the definition of ‘residency’:

*Residence in any regular term is validated by a program of courses or other exercises approved by the Faculty of a student's college or school.*

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/regulations/rpart3.html>

Consistent with UCEP's interpretation of SR610, UCRJ recently ruled that "residency" is not linked to the physical presence of a student on campus and can be satisfied by taking online courses that are approved by the local CEP (or equivalent) at the student's home campus (Appendix A).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Serences', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Serences,  
Chair UCEP  
jserences@ucsd.edu

### **Appendix A: UCRJ Ruling 6.11.A:**

By a vote of three ayes and two nays, UCR&J determined that the definition of “residence” endorsed by the Academic Senate Special Committee on Remote and Online Instruction and Residency (residency determined by course approval by the relevant Faculty and Senate governing entities of the University of California, not linked to the physical presence of a student on campus) is consistent with SR 610. The majority opinion was based on a liberal interpretation of SR 610, which may permit on-line, off-campus instruction when courses have been duly reviewed and approved by Faculty and Senate governing entities. The minority opinion was based on a literal interpretation of SR 610, where a requirement for the physical presence of a student at on- and off-campus sites may limit or even exclude on-line, off-campus instruction regardless of review and approval by Faculty and Senate governing entities.