



*Susan Cochran*  
Telephone: (510) 987-0887  
Email: [susan.cochran@ucop.edu](mailto:susan.cochran@ucop.edu)

*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 1, 2022

**CHAIRS OF SENATE DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES:**

Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Revision to Senate Regulation 630

Dear Colleagues,

I am forwarding for systemwide Senate review an amendment to Senate Regulation 630 proposed by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and endorsed by the 2021-22 Academic Council.

The amendment clarifies the residency prerequisite for an undergraduate Bachelor's degree by adding new paragraph 630.E, requiring undergraduates (both transfers and freshman admits) to complete six units of in-person courses in a quarter/semester for one year, with the in-person course defined as having at least 50 percent of instruction occur in a face-to-face manner. 630.E will also permit individual Senate divisions to maintain a higher threshold for required in-person course credits per term or for the number of terms in which a threshold applies. The regulation also closes a loophole that allows campuses to potentially create a fully online degree program through individually-approved online courses.

For additional background, faculty are invited to review two documents:

- 1) A June 2022 letter<sup>1</sup> from 2021-22 Senate Chair Horwitz to Provost Brown that summarizes the 2021-22 Academic Council's discussions about fully online undergraduate degrees, describes next steps for consideration of online degrees, majors, and minors, and discusses a pedagogical basis for why fully online degrees are not prudent at this time
- 2) An open letter to the Senate<sup>2</sup> from Chair Horwitz proposing a framework for the consideration of fully online undergraduate degrees and restoration of a residency requirement

Please submit comments to the Academic Senate office at [SenateReview@ucop.edu](mailto:SenateReview@ucop.edu) by November 14, 2022 to allow us to compile and summarize comments for the Academic Council's November

<sup>1</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/reports/rh-mb-next-steps-fully-online-degrees.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/rh-mb-next-steps-fully-online-degrees.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ucop.box.com/s/vho3f9gs29owpxctdnl0jbceenfap1lb>

21 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Cochran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Cochran" clearly distinguishable.

Susan Cochran, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Senate Directors  
Executive Director Lin

Encl.

June 14, 2022

**ROBERT HORWITZ, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: Proposed Language to Amend the Residency Requirement**

Dear Robert,

At its meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Academic Council tasked UCEP to draft language to amend the residence requirement for undergraduate students to include a minimum of one year where students take courses in-person on their home campus. At our meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, UCEP members voted to endorse language presented below for Academic Council's review, with 7 members supporting and 2 opposed.

Reasons for supporting this language amending the residence requirement were diverse. These included the desire to ensure students' direct connection with campus services to support student success. There was also a sense that bringing students to learning in the same location as instructors and their cohort is important in establishing a sense of belonging to aid academic persistence, building social and professional networks to aid future endeavors, and providing opportunities for experiential learning. In addition, the language would allow faculty and academic departments with wide latitude for experimentation with online courses, minors, and majors should the Senate decide to approve online majors in the future.

Reasons for opposition centered on skepticism regarding whether physical location is important to these aims, and concerns that the language below would preclude fully online undergraduate degrees absent further amendment to Senate Regulations. UCEP wishes to make this implication clear to Academic Council.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO AMEND SENATE REGULATIONS**

Proposed Senate Regulation 630.E

A minimum of six units of course credits per quarter (or semester) for three quarters (or two semesters) completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in courses which are designed to deliver to any enrolled student at least 50 percent of instructional hours in-person on a campus of the University of California or physical locations affiliated with programs listed in Senate Regulation 630.D or in prison environments. At least two quarters or one semester must be during the regular academic year. "In-person" means instructors and students are in the same physical location. "Instructional hours" refer to time when instructors are presenting to or interacting with students during designated class times (e.g., lecture, laboratory, discussion, field work, problem sessions). For the purposes of this regulation, instructional hours do not include office hours, or recorded lectures provided as a supplement to designated hours

interacting with students. Individual Divisions may maintain a higher threshold for required in-person course credits per term or for the number of terms in which a threshold applies.

UCEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary Lynch, Chair  
UCEP

## NOTES

1. The proposal is to amend SR 630, as this is the section of Senate Regulations that details residence requirements for undergraduates. SR 610 defines residence, for both undergraduate and graduate students.
2. The descriptor “are designed to” is included to refer to the course as described during the course approval process, so that emergency closures or other contingencies beyond the control of the campus, instructor, or student do not interfere with students satisfying the requirement.
3. The 50-percent threshold to define in-person courses is based on the threshold used by WASC to distinguish between on-site and distance education courses.
4. The descriptor “in-person” is used here instead of WASC’s term “on-site” to avoid any potential for conflicting definitions of “on-site” to arise.
5. The term “instructional hours” is used here instead of WASC’s “substantive interaction” to tie the in-person activity as cleanly and directly as possible to course credit hours.
6. Treatment of hybrid courses: The use of the qualifiers “are designed to” and “any enrolled student” combined with the definition of “instructional hours” here is intended to enable classes with flipped classrooms to satisfy this requirement, but at the same time prevent courses that are designed to provide in-person instruction to only a subset of students from satisfying the requirement.
7. The use of “are designed to” and “any enrolled student” is intended to allow courses where instructors deliver in-person lectures that students may view later if they wish, or where attendance is optional, to satisfy this requirement.
8. The phrase “or recorded lectures provided as a supplement to designated hours interacting with students” indicates that live instruction is required. Asynchronous material is only a supplement to it in this definition. The qualifier “for the purposes of this regulation” is added to preserve the discretion of Divisional bodies to approve asynchronous instruction for such use in other contexts.

## APPENDIX: CURRENT REGULATIONS ([link](#))

### Chapter 1. General Provisions

#### Article 1. Residence

**610.** Residence in any regular term is validated for an undergraduate student by enrollment in at least six units of courses that were created through the Divisional course approval process of the student's home campus. Residence in any regular term is validated for a graduate student with programs of instruction or research approved by the Graduate Council of the student's home campus.

### Chapter 2. Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree

#### Article 1. General Requirements

##### **630.**

- 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)
- E. A minimum of six units of course credits per quarter (or semester) for three quarters (or two semesters) completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in courses which are designed to deliver to any enrolled student at least 50 percent of instructional hours in-person on a campus of the University of California or physical locations affiliated with programs listed in SR630.D or in prison environments. At least

two quarters or one semester must be during the regular academic year. “In-person” means instructors and students are in the same physical location. “Instructional hours” refer to time when instructors are presenting to or interacting with students during designated class times (e.g., lecture, laboratory, discussion, field work, problem sessions). For the purposes of this regulation, instructional hours do not include office hours, or recorded lectures provided as a supplement to designated hours interacting with students. Individual Divisions may maintain a higher threshold for required in-person course credits per term or for the number of terms in which a threshold applies.