

April 21, 2023

**Lenna Ontai**  
Chair, Human Development

**RE:** Human Development Graduate Group Bylaws

Enclosed is a copy of the Human Development Graduate Group Bylaws, as approved by Graduate Council on April 21, 2023. These bylaws are now the revised, official document for the Human Development Graduate Group and will be posted to the Office of Graduate Studies program webpage: <https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/ghde>.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Schank  
Chair, Graduate Council

c: Jasmine Bonite, Director of Policy and Programs, Graduate Studies  
Will Angel, Project Policy Analyst, Graduate Studies  
Duncan Temple Lang, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Graduate Studies  
Mary Vasquez, Associate Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Kimberly Berardi, Graduate Program Coordinator, Human Development

# Graduate Group in Human Development Bylaws

*Administrative Home:* Department of Human Ecology

*Revision date(s):* 1/5/2018; 10/12/2022

*Graduate Council Approval:* 4/21/2023

## Article I. Objective

- A. Degree(s) offered by the program: The Graduate Group in Human Development administers interdisciplinary programs of instruction and research leading to the M.S. in Child Development (Plan I; Plan II) or to the Ph.D. in Human Development (Plan A).
- B. Discipline: The Graduate Group in Human Development emphasizes the interaction between domain specific processes that underpin development and the contexts in which development takes place. The course offerings and research activities of the group are broadly based and draw upon the interests and expertise of faculty members in a variety of disciplines such as Anthropology, Education, Genetics, Human Development, Physiology, Nutrition, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Public Health, and Psychology.
- C. Mission of the Program: The Graduate Group in Human Development (hereinafter referred to as the Group) provides postgraduate-level education relating to the theories, methods and current empirical findings that focus on an interdisciplinary basis for developing new and/or applying existing knowledge of lifespan human development across domains, within a context, e.g., the family, school settings, or different (sub) cultures.

## Article II. Membership

### A. Criteria for Membership in the Graduate Program

- 1. Appropriate academic and teaching title.

Members must hold an appropriate academic title as outlined in [Graduate Council Policy, GC1998-02, "Policy on Membership in Graduate Programs"](#).

Or

- 2. Active research appropriate to the discipline(s) encompassed by the program.

Membership is independent and separate from academic department appointments. Membership is based upon disciplinary expertise and active research, so members throughout campus are eligible for consideration to membership in the group.

### B. Voting rights.

All members are eligible to vote on graduate program matters. See: [GC2011-04, Policy on Quorum, Voting Rights and Responsibility](#).

### C. Application for membership.

1. How faculty may apply:

Eligible faculty may self-nominate or be nominated by an existing member of the Group. Nominees will submit a CV plus a statement of interest and willingness to contribute to the Group as defined below in Article II B.2. to the Executive Committee via the Graduate Group Coordinator. If the Executive Committee determines that the nominee meets the requirements set forth in Article II. A., the nominee's materials will be provided by e-mail to all faculty members of the Group. A vote of the Group members shall then be taken by email or any other confidential means. Such nominees shall be deemed elected upon receiving a majority of the votes cast and will be sent a letter informing them of their election. Results will be de-identified by the Graduate Coordinator prior to Group notification.

2. Anticipated contributions that graduate faculty members will perform as a member.

- a. Active role in the administration of the graduate program by serving on graduate program administrative committees; as a graduate adviser (not to be confused with being a major professor); or as an administrative officer of the program.
- b. Providing graduate level instruction, in addition to sponsoring individual study (299s), that is open to Human Development Graduate Group students.
- c. Mentoring a member student, or serving on a thesis, dissertation, or Ph.D. qualifying examination committee or M.S. comprehensive examination committee.
- d. Submitting and grading Ph.D. preliminary examination or M.S. comprehensive examination questions, presenting in a Group colloquium, or guest lecturing in a graduate group course.

A minimal level of activity is defined as involvement in at least two of these activities within any three-year period.

D. Emeritus Status

Emeritus faculty with active research programs may remain members of the program and are afforded the following rights: they may attend and participate in program activities (including meetings and administrative committees), may teach graduate courses, and may serve on student committees. Emeritus faculty hold all the rights and responsibilities of any other non-Emeritus member of the Group except that they are not afforded the right to vote on policy and bylaw issues related to the program.

E. Review of Membership

The criteria for reviewing members of the program are the same for all members. Each faculty member's contributions to the program shall be reviewed once every three years for the purpose of identifying faculty members who are not providing a minimal level of service to the program. A minimal level of activity is defined as involvement in at least two activities detailed in Article II.B.2 within any three-year period.

This review will be conducted by the Executive Committee, which will review on a yearly basis one-third of the membership. The review will focus on the areas defined in Article

II.B.2. above. Faculty whose record reflects poor performance in any of these areas will be subject to non-renewal or to a probationary period in which greater involvement must be demonstrated as a condition of continuing membership.

#### F. Membership Appeal Process

If membership is denied or not renewed, faculty can appeal to the Executive Committee for reconsideration. Applicants denied membership or renewal of membership by the Executive Committee may make a final appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

### **Article III. Administration**

The administration of the program and its activities will be vested in the Group Chair and an Executive Committee.

### **Article IV. Graduate Program Chair**

#### A. Chair appointment process

The Chair will be appointed in accordance with the Academic Personnel Manual policy UCD-245.B and the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies.

A “Nominating Committee” will be named by the Executive Committee to solicit names of nominees for Graduate Group Chair from the faculty and graduate students of the group. Those nominated will then be contacted regarding their willingness to serve. The names of the nominees who have indicated a willingness to serve will then be submitted to the Group’s faculty and graduate students for comments. All comments will remain confidential.

The Nominating Committee will forward at least one name to the Dean of Graduate Studies along with all comments received on the nominees. All comments solicited from faculty and students of the group will be treated as confidential information by the Group’s Nominating Committee and by the Office of Graduate Studies.

If the Group puts forward more than one nominee, it may express a preference for one and, if it does, should indicate the basis for determining that preference. The nominee(s) may be interviewed by the Dean of Graduate Studies (or delegate) who will then forward his/her recommendation to the Chancellor for appointment. The normal term of the Chair’s appointment is three years, however what is recommended will be based on the nominees’ willingness to serve.

#### B. Duties of the Chair

The Chair: a) provides overall academic leadership for the program; b) develops and implements policies for the program; c) represents the interests of the program to the campus and University administrators; d) calls and presides at meetings of the Executive/Program Committee; e) calls and presides at meetings of the program; f) is responsible for coordinating all administrative matters with the Office of Graduate Studies; g) manages the budgets of the program; h) submits course change or approval forms; i) is responsible for the accuracy of all publications related to the program including web

pages and catalog copy; and j) nominates graduate advisers for appointment.

C. Vice Chair

1. The Vice Chair is elected by the Executive Committee for a two-year term of service.
2. The Vice Chair is a voting member of the Executive Committee.
3. The Vice Chair will serve as chief officer of the Group in the absence of the Chair, for less than a quarter. If the Chair will be absent from campus for more than a quarter, the Chair appointment procedures must be followed.

## **Article V. Committees**

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the chair of the program, who serves as chair of the Executive Committee, and no fewer than five faculty members of the Group, each of whom shall chair a standing committee, and serve for staggered, two-year terms. Two graduate student representatives, one from the M.S. program in Child Development, and one from the Ph.D. program in Human Development, the Lead Graduate Adviser of the Group and the Lead Program Director for Human Development and Family Studies within the host Department shall serve as ex officio member. All members have voting rights, including the student representatives, unless the student does not participate in the discussion due to the nature of the item (see Article VI). The faculty members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for a two-year term, which is renewable three times. Should the faculty member agree to serve for another term, renewal shall require a majority vote of the Group.

Faculty members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a majority vote of the Group from among those members who have been nominated to serve, agreed to stand for election, and have been elected according to the procedures detailed below. They shall serve staggered, two-year terms, at least two members normally being elected in one year, and three in the next year. The Group Chair shall announce openings for committee chairpersons and request nominations of candidates for the Executive Committee from the membership in the beginning of the Spring Quarter; nominations shall be submitted to the Committee at least five weeks before the end of the Spring Quarter. Nominees shall be contacted to ensure that they are willing to serve. The slate of candidates willing to serve shall be announced by the Executive Committee to the membership of the Group. The ballot shall include the names of those nominated by the membership and/or proposed by the Executive Committee, who nominated them, together with a brief summary of each candidate's qualifications, including past service to the Group. The ballot will be distributed to the members within one week of nominations closing, and members will have at least one week to vote. Election shall be based on the number of votes received; ties in the election results shall be resolved by majority vote of the Executive Committee. Election results shall be announced to the membership by e-mail. Newly elected Executive Committee members shall assume their duties on July 1.

The principal responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be:

- A. To elect from its faculty members a Vice-Chair.
- B. To serve as a membership committee.
- C. To keep the membership and students apprised of the administrative activities of the group and any decisions regarding group functioning.

- D. To decide upon the appropriate allocation of the funds awarded to the group to support its activities including Graduate Fellowship (formally the Block Grant) and Work Study funds.
- E. To nominate, via the Group Chair, to the Dean of Graduate Council Studies, an appropriate number of Graduate Advisers for each degree program. Advisers so appointed shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee, unless already elected to the committee.
- F. To appoint such standing committees and ad hoc committees as deemed necessary to properly administer the activities of the Group.
- G. To review and approve recommendations made by the Admissions Committee regarding new student admissions for the coming year.
- H. To review the records of Ph.D. students who have failed to achieve a minimally acceptable overall grade when taking the preliminary examination for the first time to determine whether to recommend disqualification from the program or to permit the student to re-take the examination.
- I. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly. Additional meetings and executive sessions may be held as deemed necessary by the chair, or upon petition by five members of the program.

### **Admissions and Fellowships Committee**

This committee shall make admissions recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee then approves or disapproves the recommendations. This committee shall be led by a Chair, who will serve a two-year term. In addition to its Chair, it shall include one additional faculty member, and a student member, with the option to have at least one other faculty member. The Admissions committee shall provide interested faculty with opportunities for input as it evaluates applicants and shall determine that at least one faculty member of the Group is willing and able to mentor any student admitted to the program. The committee will determine the criteria for awarding support for new and continuing students and notifies potential applicants and faculty. The committee reviews and ranks student applications for fellowships and financial support. In consultation with the Group Chair, the Committee determines the support packages to be offered to applicants. The Committee determines which applicants should be considered for subsidized visits to campus, submits the call for applications, and reviews and approves student applications for travel grants and research awards.

### **Colloquium Committee**

This committee shall be led by a Chair, who will serve a two-year term. This committee shall include at least one faculty member in addition to its Chair, and up to two student members. The Colloquium Committee is responsible for arranging and coordinating presentations by outside scholars, and for the regular presentations of "brown bag" seminars by Group students and faculty. It recommends special speakers to the Executive Committee, and determines how best to allocate funds made available to it for these purposes by the Group Chair.

### **Recruitment and Events Committee**

This committee shall be led by a Chair, who will serve a two-year term and up to two student members, and the option to have at least one other faculty member. The committee is responsible for advertising the Group's programs to prospective student applicants and for utilizing the funds allocated by the Executive Committee to develop and maintain the Group's web sites, to mail brochures, and perform other recruitment-related activities. In collaboration with the Admissions Committee, it coordinates the planning activities for prospective new students who are selected to visit the campus and makes recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding other recruitment-related activities that benefit the Group's programs.

### **Curriculum Committee**

This committee shall be led by a Chair, who will serve a two-year term. The Curriculum Committee includes the committee chair, one other faculty member, and a student member. There is an option to have at least one other faculty member. It is responsible for reviewing existing Program level educational policy and curriculum requirements and recommending curriculum changes to the Executive Committee. The committee is responsible for announcements and updates for the University General Catalog and for announcements to the Office of Graduate Studies pertaining to graduate study and research in Child and Human Development. The committee is responsible for reviewing and approving all Masters students' study plans and Ph.D. students' proposed "focal programs" and ensuring that students are receiving appropriate mentoring according to the relevant guidelines as set forth by Graduate Council.

### **Examinations Committee**

This committee shall be led by a Chair, who will serve a two-year term. Membership includes the committee chair and the option to have at least one other faculty member. The committee is responsible for the format, content, and administration of the Ph.D. preliminary examinations, including reviewing the grading rubric and selecting graders. The committee is responsible for advising all students about the process, format, and timing of the program's qualifying examination and qualifying examination process. This committee periodically reviews the format and administration of the preliminary and qualifying examinations and recommends to the Executive Committee modifications that would improve the quality of the degree programs.

## **Article VI. Student Representatives**

Two student representatives, one from the M.S. program in Child Development and one from the Ph.D. program in Human Development when possible, serve on Group committees. At the beginning of the Spring Quarter, the Graduate Coordinator sends an e-mail to all students in the programs to solicit self- or peer-nominations for student representative positions, via electronic distribution of an anonymous ballot (e.g., using Qualtrics). The nominee(s) with the largest number of votes is reviewed and, after positive review, is appointed by the Executive Committee as Representative(s) on Group committees for a one-year term. Students may be reappointed to a second term. Student representatives serve on the Executive, Admissions and Fellowships, Colloquium, Curriculum and Recruitment and Events committees. Student representatives have full voting rights for that committee unless the nature of the item under discussion is ruled inappropriate by the Chair of that committee. Examples include discussion about other students, personnel actions or disciplinary issues relating to faculty, rankings of

existing students for funding, and disciplinary issues related to students. Student representatives are invited to attend the annual Group meeting.

### **Article VII. Graduate Advisers**

Graduate advisers are appointed in compliance with the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies. The Chair of the program will recommend graduate advisers to the Office of Graduate Studies for review and appointment for a two year term. There shall be at least a minimum number of advisers to meet the 15:1 advising ratio recommended by the Graduate Council. Graduate advisers are responsible for evaluating the adequacy of preparative course work, reviewing student status related to program requirements, and providing nominating guidance for comprehensive exam committees. Graduate Advisers are expected to meet at least yearly with advisees. The thesis/dissertation adviser for a student should not serve as their Graduate Adviser. A Lead Graduate Adviser will be so designated by the Chair to serve as a resource for other advisers.

### **Article VIII. Meetings**

The Group Chair shall call an annual meeting during Spring Quarter for the purpose of electing officers and conducting other business. The Chair shall be privileged to call other meetings in the interest of the Group and shall be required to do so at the written request of five or more members. Notification will be emailed at least two weeks before the meeting. Faculty not on campus may participate by teleconference or other available technology.

### **Article IX. Quorum**

All issues that require a vote must be:

- Voted on by 50+% of the membership
- On graduate program matters other than amendment/revision of bylaws: passage requires a 50+% supporting vote of the members voting.
- On amendments and revision of bylaws: passage requires a 2/3rds supporting vote of the members voting.

Balloting to establish/revise bylaws or graduate program policy can be done either in a meeting of the program, via e-mail, or other web-based balloting technology. The balloting may be done either publicly (such as a voice vote or show of hands), or anonymously. Any member can make a public or confidential request to the program chair for anonymous balloting at any time. Anonymous balloting will be conducted electronically via an anonymous voting web platform and administered by the Group Chair with support from the Graduate Coordinator.

If balloting is conducted via e-mail or web-based technology: a) the motion may be introduced by the executive committee or the Chair, b) 7 days must be provided for expression of opinions about the proposal prior to the acceptance of votes, and c) the program must allow 7 days for votes to be returned or before the "polls are closed."

### **Article X. Order of Business for Meetings**

Meetings shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.



## **Article XI. Amendments**

Amendments to these bylaws may be made in accordance with program's quorum policy in Article IX. Program members may propose amendments by petition to the program Chair. The program Chair, or relevant program committee, may ask for revisions from the faculty who submitted proposed amendments before forwarding the revisions to the membership for review and voting. Rules on quorum, voting and passage are described in Article IX. All amendments and revisions must be submitted to the Graduate Council for review and approval; changes in the bylaws will become effective upon approval by the Graduate Council.