

Synopsis of Student Resources for Dealing with Conflict

As a student of forensic science, you are involved in helping justice prevail. During your studies, you may encounter personal situations with conflict in your lab, studies or administrative areas where you will seek a just resolution. UCD has numerous resources for dealing with such conflict, including appeals of administrative decisions. The UC Davis Graduate Student Association is a good source of general information in this area. UC Davis Student Judicial Affairs (<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/>) provides information on expected student conduct, the disciplinary process and student grievances.

If conflict occurs in your lab, the lab director (your thesis advisor) normally deals with the situation in an equitable way. If that does not happen, and your performance is affected or at risk, your academic advisor should be consulted for advice on a confidential basis. You and your advisor may seek input from other Forensic Science Graduate Group (FSGG) faculty such as the Chair of the FSGG or even from Graduate Studies. If your advisor is not an appropriate resource, you may consult directly with the FSGG Chair or with the Office of Graduate Studies. In difficult cases, Mediation Services (<http://mediation.ucdavis.edu>) are available on a confidential basis to facilitate voluntary management of workplace disputes.

If conflict occurs in coursework, you should first try to resolve the issue with the instructor. If the resolution is unsatisfactory, you should contact your academic advisor for advice and to mediate disputes. If this does not help, or you disagree with the outcome, you may wish to consult with the Chair of the FSGG Educational Policy Committee or the Chair of the FSGG. In some such cases, and for other academic issues, you may prefer to consult with others outside the FSSG such as the Office of Graduate Studies. Graduate Studies has a Student Affairs Officer to provide assistance and, in serious cases, you may consult the Associate Dean. If the matter is more personal/psychological in nature, you also have access to a representative of Counseling Services at the same location. For matters that involve requests for or appeals from actions at variance from established rules and procedures, the Administrative Committee of Graduate Council provides a sounding board and can offer administrative relief.

If a conflict occurs in administration (including financial) of the Forensic Science Graduate Program by UC Davis Extension (UCDE) you should contact the Forensic Science Program Director. If a satisfactory solution is not available, immediate resources for appeal are the Chair of the FSGG and the Dean of UCDE. Depending on the nature of the conflict, the other resources mentioned above may be available.



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