

## ADVISORY LETTER TO APPLICANTS TO U.C. BERKELEY PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PDP) FOR 2012-2013 ACADEMIC YEAR

Dear 2012-2013 PDP Applicant:

This short letter is meant to inform you of important changes for the Product Development Program (PDP) for the 2012 – 2013 academic calendar year. This is a time of great change and challenge on the Berkeley campus and innovative and popular programs like the PDP are not insulated from these pressures. Over the past few months we have been forced by circumstances to reconsider the financial model of the PDP. Under our current approach, the program's operating expenses are relatively high for the service we provide each PDP class. The program's expenses are not fully covered by the standard graduate tuition fees students have historically paid to enroll at the university. Our department's financial situation is such that we cannot continue to subsidize and offer the PDP in the way we have over the last six years. Additionally, our experience operating the program during its initial years have made us aware of the immediate need to enhance the quality of our professional degree offering in several key areas important to students including career placement, field project acquisition and financial aid to students. So we must make significant changes in how we finance and deliver the program.

What does this mean to you? . The basic structure of our program will not change – students will be able to complete the requirements for a Master's Degree from the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering with a concentration in product development in approximately nine months. Students must take elective coursework in a specific area of industry specialization (e.g. biotechnology), complete two mandatory semesters of our specially-created new product development course (CBE 295P and CBE 295Q) and conduct a team-based field project usually sponsored by local industry.

What will change is that we must now add a supplemental professional degree fee to the other tuition and fees you must pay to enroll at the university. Subject to approval by the Regents of the University of California, we will begin charging a professional fee for the PDP for the first time in the Fall 2012 semester. You must decide if the PDP will have sufficient career value given the new professional degree fee for each entering student.

As stated above, the proposed professional degree fee is subject to regental approval, but you should plan on a professional degree fee for the PDP of \$22,000.00 for residents of California and \$16,000.00 for non-residents starting next year. The revenue to the program from the professional degree fee will be used to benefit students directly in several ways: investment in additional specialized instructional and administrative staff, increased financial aid to students, and a robust career planning and placement function to assist students at the start of their professional careers.

Total annual fees for all students for 2012 - 2013 will be set by the Regents early in 2012, but based on this year's fee schedule, total fees for the PDP (including the professional degree fee) will be approximately \$39,940 per year for residents of California and \$46,185 per year for non-residents. Please note that these total fee quotes are merely estimates and do not include living expenses. The most current information on fees may be found on the Registrar's website (<http://registrar.berkeley.edu/Registration/feesched.html>). We know this may be a significant and unexpected change for those of you applying to the program, but the future financial viability of the PDP will depend on some kind of direct student support.

The PDP itself will have very limited resources available for student financial aid. University fellowships and need-based aid (e.g. loans, grants) are available primarily for U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. Most international students will be responsible for paying the entire cost of attendance for the one-year program, and should plan carefully to ensure adequate financial resources.

Federal financial aid, in the form of loans, is available for graduate students who are either U.S. citizens or Permanent Residents. To apply, file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) any time after January 1. The FAFSA is also used to determine eligibility for need-based fellowships and

departmental funding. UC Berkeley's institution code for the FAFSA is 001312. You can apply for aid before you are admitted to Berkeley.

UC Berkeley participates in the [Federal Direct Loan Program](#), a federally funded, non-credit-based loan program for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Up to \$20,500 may be borrowed annually through a combination of subsidized and unsubsidized loan funds. The Direct Loan is a fixed-rate loan, with an interest rate of 6.8 percent. Students wanting to borrow more than \$20,500 can also use the [Federal Grad PLUS Loan](#).

Also, there are a limited number of teaching assistantships are also available to all students (see [http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/appointments\\_office.shtml](http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/policies/appointments_office.shtml)).

We leave it to each of you to decide if under these new conditions, the PDP remains an attractive investment in achieving your career aspirations. In any case, we commit to keeping you informed with the latest information we have so that you can make timely decisions about your plans for next year. We intend to proceed normally and process applications to the PDP and select a class for the 2012-2013 academic calendar year. Deadline for applications to the PDP is Friday, January 6, 2012.

We wish each of you the best in your future endeavors.

Keith Alexander, Executive Director  
Product Development Program  
October 21, 2011

Other useful websites:

Graduate Division - <http://www.grad.berkeley.edu/financial/deadlines.shtml>

Financial Aid and Scholarships Office - <http://students.berkeley.edu/finaid/graduates/index.htm>

International Student Organization - [http://www.isoa.org/list\\_scholarships.aspx](http://www.isoa.org/list_scholarships.aspx)

International Education Financial Aid - <http://www.iefaf.org/search/>  
USA Study Guide - [http://www.usastudyguide.com/Financial\\_aid.htm](http://www.usastudyguide.com/Financial_aid.htm)