UC Merced Majors/Programs

Originally planned to open in Fall 2004, UC Merced officially opened to undergraduates in Fall 2005. Some graduate students were enrolled as of Fall 2004 and were working with some of the pioneering faculty. As of Fall 2005, these faculty had developed one graduate program (with five emphases) and nine undergraduate programs. Some programs were offered as "umbrella" programs, with the intention of splitting off more specific programs when enough faculty were hired to support them.

The graduate division began with one umbrella program (Individual Graduate Program – MA/MS/PhD). In fall 2007, the first emphasis was approved by the GRC (Graduate & Research Council) as a stand-alone graduate program: Environmental Systems (MS/PhD).

A similar strategy was implemented for undergraduate program offerings. For example, the "umbrella" program of Social, Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BA/BS) was developed in 2004. By Fall 2006, Psychology (BA) and Cognitive Science (BA) had become stand-alone majors, followed in 2007 by Economics (BS) and Political Science (BA), as well as the degree objective of BS in Cognitive Science.

Response to questions from WASC (Aug. 7, 2008 email from Barbara Wright)

1. WASC's database shows 15 bachelor's degrees, 7 master's and 7 PhDs.

   Yes, this is what UC Merced submitted in our FY06-07 WASC Annual Report. See attached table showing the undergraduate and graduate programs offered from FY05-06 through FY07-08).
   The 7 master's programs listed, however, are actually emphases within 1 umbrella program: Individual Graduate Program (IGP). We realized in FY07-08 that we should have listed them as emphases, not stand-alone programs. All of the graduate programs/emphases have Master's (MAs, or MSs) and PhD degrees associated with them.

2. The UCM FY07-08 WASC Annual Report lists 19 bachelor's, 2 master's, and 2 PhDs.

   As the table shows, two of the undergraduate programs were deactivated (Human Biology, which was absorbed into Biological Sciences; and Social, Behavioral, & Cognitive Sciences, which was an umbrella program that "spawned" 4 programs: Psychology and Cognitive Science (both in Fall 2006) and Economics, and Political Science (both in Fall 2007). [In addition, a BS degree objective was added to the Cognitive Science program in Fall 2007; perhaps this should not have been listed as another program?] In addition, the World Cultures & History umbrella program "spawned" separate programs in History and Literatures & Cultures (both in Fall 2007).

   There were 6 continuing IGP emphases in FY07-08 (two involved name changes: Physics & Chemistry, formerly Atomic & Molecular Science & Engineering; and Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, formerly Computer & Information Systems). One IGP emphasis, Environmental Systems, became approved as the first stand-alone

graduate degree program. Two new IGP emphases were offered: Biological Engineering & Small Scale Technologies and Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics. This resulted in two graduate programs (with both master's and PhD degrees): IGP (now with 8 emphases) and Environmental Systems.

3. The only new program planned for this fall, as noted in the email, is Anthropology (BA). All of the other programs were included in the WASC Candidacy Review.