Graduate education provides advanced academic training and research specialization within a particular field of study to foster the development of scholars for careers in innovative research and teaching to benefit humankind. Toward these ends, the objective of graduate education at UC Davis is to develop individuals who are:

- Ethical citizens and scholars with knowledge and appreciation of the diversity of intellectual and creative activity.
- Independent, innovative researchers adept at creative and critical thought.
- Leaders in the creation of new knowledge and understanding of the world and our activities in it.
- Excellent communicators with outstanding teaching and mentoring skills.
- Achievers successful in collaborative and cooperative ventures.