

## POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS – TIME TO COUNT FIVE-YEAR LIMIT GUIDELINES

### Policy

APM 390-17-b — Postdoctoral Scholars Policy - states: The total duration of an individual's postdoctoral service may not exceed five years, including postdoctoral service at other institutions. By exception, an extension, not to exceed a sixth year, may be granted.

### Guidelines

#### **What will count toward the 5-year limit?**

- UC appointments as Postgraduate Researcher, Visiting Postgraduate Researcher, Postdoctoral Scholar, Postdoctoral Fellow, Postdoctoral Trainee, or Faculty Fellow
- Postdoctoral experience in other educational or research institutions (universities, NIH, Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, LBVA, etc.)
- Foreign research experience if similar to US postdoctoral experience
- Other mentored postdoctoral research experience

#### **What will NOT count toward the 5-year limit?**

- Residencies
- Clinical fellow appointments with modest or no research training component
- Non-academic staff appointments

Requests for exceptions beyond the 5<sup>th</sup> year for up to a total of six years will be considered if the Postdoctoral Scholar:

- Is changing fields/disciplines
- Has five years or more of postdoctoral experience, is returning from a non-academic/non-research position or from full-time parenting, and needs research retraining
- Has a postdoctoral fellowship that was awarded through a sixth year
- Needs a few additional months beyond the fifth year to complete a research project
- Has accepted a permanent position at another institution that begins a few additional months beyond the fifth year
- Would suffer hardship as the result of personal circumstances which are beyond the Postdoctoral Scholar's control (e.g., a death in the family which delayed completion of the research training)

Requests for exceptions will also be considered in other well-justified circumstances and when the additional training time would be beneficial to the Scholar.

### **Process for Requesting an Exception**

Requests for exceptions should be submitted for review and approval, where appropriate, through the appropriate Dean's Office and then to the Office of Academic Personnel.