

## Graduate Faculty

*All Graduate Faculty categories must have demonstration of commitment to the academic community, institution, discipline, and students. In addition, they must possess a high level of competence in teaching. At the full level in particular, the faculty must demonstrate research capability and competence in directing independent investigation. Qualifications and responsibilities not found in membership categories at lower levels are highlighted with an asterisk (\*). Colleges or Schools may propose more stringent local standards for membership; these are subject to ratification of the Graduate Council.*

### Categories and Requirements for Membership

#### FULL/DOCTORAL MEMBERSHIP

Full Members of the Graduate Faculty must:

- be tenured or on a tenure track on the Texas A&M International Faculty;
- hold the rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor or Full Professor;
- have earned a doctorate or other terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline;
- produce tangible evidence of continued productive scholarship, as normally defined within the discipline concerned; and,
- be recommended, with their consent, to the Graduate Council via the OGS Director by the department Chair or school director, department (or college) promotion and tenure committee, or college Dean. The Chair or Dean may consult with and seek approval of the full members of the Graduate Faculty within the department.

Full Members are appointed to the Graduate Faculty for a term of five years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Full members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to:

- \*direct doctoral dissertations, masters' theses, and other graduate research;
- \*teach graduate-level courses, including doctoral;
- \*serve on graduate student committees, including doctoral;
- sit on the Graduate Council, and in that position to help set policies for the Office of Graduate Studies;
- sit on standing and special committees of the Graduate Council;
- \*serve as an officer (Secretary, etc.) of the Graduate Council; and,
- \*chair standing committees of the Graduate Council.

#### ASSOCIATE/MASTERS MEMBERSHIP

Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty must:

- \*be tenured or on a tenure track on the Texas A&M International Faculty;
- \*have earned a doctorate or other terminal degree.;
- produce tangible evidence of continued productive scholarship as normally defined within the discipline concerned; and,

- be recommended, with their consent, to the Graduate Council via the OGS Director by the department Chair or school director, department (or college) promotion and tenure committee, or college Dean. The Chair or Dean may consult with and seek approval of the full members of the Graduate Faculty within the department.

Appointment to associate membership on the Graduate Faculty is for a term of five years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Review of the associate member's qualifications for possible advancement to full membership shall be made by the Chair of the department with optional assistance of the full members in the department. When an advancement appears to be warranted, the department Chair shall recommend in writing such advancement to the Graduate Council via the OGS Director and shall include a rationale for the recommendation based on the stated criteria for the higher membership classification.

Associate members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to:

- direct masters-level theses but not doctoral-level dissertations;
- teach masters-level but not doctoral-level courses;
- serve on masters-level but not doctoral-level committees;
- \*sit on the Graduate Council, and in that position to help set policies for the Office of Graduate Studies;
- \*sit on standing and special committees of the Graduate Council.

#### EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

(This category is for persons not on the TAMU faculty)

External Members of the Graduate Faculty must:

- have a terminal, or master's degree, or be considered an outstanding person from government, industry, the professions, education foundations, a TAMU system component institution, or another academic or professional institution of higher education who holds a visiting or part-time faculty position at TAMU;
- show actual involvement in the departmental graduate program either in teaching 5000- or 6000-level courses or serving on graduate student committees;
- be recommended, with their consent, to the Graduate Council via the OGS Director by the department Chair, college Dean, or school Director. College Deans and school Directors will make this recommendation where department Chairs do not exist. The recommendation must state how the external member will be involved in the graduate program, especially noting whether the candidate will be teaching doctoral-level courses.

Appointment to external membership on the Graduate Faculty is for a term of three years and will be subject to re-evaluation at the end of the term. This membership must be approved by the Graduate Council.

Other provisions regarding External Membership:

- Each candidate will be certified by the Graduate Council and Dean either to teach doctoral-level and masters-level courses or to teach only masters-level courses, in accordance with the statement of involvement in the candidate's recommendation letter (see description below).
- External members who are to be involved in doctoral programs must hold an earned doctorate in the teaching discipline or a related discipline.
- In order to chair a graduate student committee, external members must hold a terminal degree or its equivalent.

External members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to:

- \*co-chair masters-level or doctoral-level student committees, depending on credentials and certification (ineligible to chair such committees);
- \*teach masters-level or doctoral-level courses, depending on credentials and certification; and,
- \*serve on masters-level or doctoral-level student committees, depending on credentials and certification.

#### TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP

(This category is for those who teach masters-level courses and are not otherwise involved in the departmental graduate programs)

Any faculty member holding the master's degree or what is generally considered to be a terminal degree in his or her discipline may be appointed, with his or her consent, as a temporary member of the Graduate Faculty upon approval by the OGS Director of a request in writing from both the faculty member and the Chair of the faculty member's department. The college Dean or school director will present the corresponding request where department Chairs do not exist.

Review of the temporary member's qualifications for possible advancement to a higher membership category shall be made by the Chair of the department with the optional assistance of the full members of the Graduate Faculty in the department. When an advancement appears to be warranted, the department Chair shall recommend in writing such advancement to the OGS Director and shall include a rationale for the recommendation based on the stated criteria for the higher membership classification. College Deans or school Directors will make this recommendation where department Chairs do not exist.

Appointment to temporary membership is for a one semester period. This membership need only be approved by the OGS Director.

Temporary members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to:

- teach masters-level courses.

## **Procedures for Nomination to the Graduate Faculty**

Faculty are nominated, with their consent, for inclusion on the Graduate Faculty by department Chairs, department promotion and tenure committees (or college promotion and tenure committees) or by college Deans, according to established criteria of the Graduate Council. Once a nomination is made at any level, it will be considered by the Graduate Council. The council will, in a timely manner, forward to the provost the names of those recommended for Graduate Faculty status. Those not recommended for Graduate Faculty status will be informed, in a timely manner, by the Director of the Office of Graduate Studies.

Nominees who are not recommended for Graduate Faculty status may appeal the Graduate Council's decision to the Provost.

The nomination must have evidence of continuing productive scholarship as defined in the pertinent discipline. For external members, evidence of recent involvement in the program and a statement of type of involvement anticipated in the program must be provided.

Nominations are received by the OGS Director and kept on file. The OGS Director will annually report to the Graduate Council the current membership in each category.

Full and associate members of the Graduate Faculty are nominated for terms of five years. External members are to serve terms of three years. Temporary members are appointed for terms of one semester. Members may be renominated for the same category, or a higher one, if they qualify.

The Director of the Office of Graduate Studies shall be responsible for keeping those records and notifying department Chairs, college Deans, or school Directors of those faculty members up for periodic review, or renomination.