Faculty members wishing to teach graduate courses and/or serve on graduate committees must be appointed to the graduate faculty. This appointment is both an honor and an earned status. The Graduate Council selects faculty for two types of membership – Graduate Faculty member and Visiting Faculty member.

Graduate Faculty members are eligible to teach graduate courses, direct master's theses, serve on doctoral committees, and direct doctoral dissertations. Applicants for Graduate Faculty membership must (a) possess the highest earned terminal degree, or its equivalent, in their field of specialization; (b) be employed with the academic rank of assistant professor or above; and (c) demonstrate competence as a scholar, including research capabilities and/or creative activities as evidenced by publications and creative endeavors.

Visiting Faculty members are eligible to teach graduate courses, direct master's theses, serve on doctoral committees, and serve on doctoral dissertations. The University will recognize the graduate faculty status that the visiting scholar holds at his or her home institution. Applicants not affiliated with an institution of higher education will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Temporary Graduate Faculty status is a temporary exemption to teach graduate courses and/or serve on thesis or dissertation committees. Applicants for Temporary Graduate Faculty status may or may not possess a terminal degree in the teaching discipline. The dean of graduate studies approves Temporary Graduate Faculty appointments. Information on such exemptions is submitted to the Graduate Council each semester, but does not require Council action.

Appointment to Graduate Faculty and Visiting Faculty Membership
Requests for Graduate Faculty or Visiting Faculty membership may be initiated by the head of the department in which the faculty member serves or by the faculty member him or herself. The department head and the departmental graduate faculty provide recommendations. The request is forwarded through the college dean and the dean of graduate studies, who each provide recommendations. The request is then sent to the Graduate Council, which decides which type of membership to be awarded. Application forms for graduate faculty membership will be provided by the dean of graduate studies.

Review of Graduate Faculty Membership
Each Graduate Faculty or Visiting Faculty member’s scholarly research, creative activity, and involvement in the discipline and graduate education is reviewed by the Graduate
Council every six years. The purpose for such a review is to determine if the faculty member’s current faculty status is appropriate and warranted. The review process is the same as for the initial selection process; however, the options open to the Council are more numerous and include: (a) approve continued membership in the current status for six years, (b) refuse to approve Graduate Faculty Status, or (c) provide a three-year provisional term as graduate faculty.

If the third option is chosen, the faculty member must be reviewed again after three years and either approved for a regular six-year membership or dropped from Graduate Faculty membership. A Graduate Faculty member whose status is terminated may, after one calendar year, reapply for Graduate Faculty member status.

**Termination of Graduate Faculty Membership**

If a faculty member has been negligent and/or ineffective in the performance of his or her responsibilities, graduate faculty membership may be terminated at any time.

See 12.99.99.R0.12 for more details on graduate faculty membership, the termination process (including the timeline for the faculty member to provide supporting evidence against termination) and the appeals process.