Because the academic reputation of any graduate program rests upon the quality of its faculty, great care is given to the awarding of graduate faculty membership. The approval of Graduate Faculty Membership rests with the Graduate Council. Graduate Faculty Membership is limited to full-time Texas A&M University-Commerce faculty who meet the Graduate Faculty Membership qualifications.

**Faculty with Graduate Faculty Membership**
Eligible to teach graduate classes, direct master theses, serve on doctoral committees, and direct doctoral dissertations.

Graduate Faculty Membership minimum qualifications include:
- academic rank of assistant professor or above;
- awarded the highest earned terminal degree in the teaching discipline;
- competence as a scholar, including research capability and/or creative activity as evidenced by publications, creative endeavors, and thesis or dissertation supervision.

**Faculty with Visiting Graduate Faculty Membership**
Eligible to teach graduate courses, direct master theses, serve on doctoral committees, and doctoral dissertations. The University will recognize and accept the graduate faculty status that the visiting member holds at his/her accredited home institution.

**Graduate Faculty or Visiting Graduate Faculty Membership Requests**
All requests (Graduate Faculty or Visiting Graduate Faculty Membership) initially go to the departmental Graduate Faculty for a recommendation of membership. The request is forwarded for recommendation through the department head, college dean, and graduate dean. It is then sent to the Graduate Council who makes the decision regarding membership.

**Graduate Faculty Membership Review**
Each Graduate Faculty and Visiting Graduate 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 of this review is to determine if the faculty member's current Graduate Faculty or Visiting Graduate Faculty Membership is appropriate and warranted. The review process is the same as for the initial selection process; however, the options open to the Graduate Council are more numerous and include:
- approve continued membership in the current status for six years,
- decline to approve Graduate Faculty or Visiting Faculty Membership, or
- provide a three-year provisional term of Graduate Faculty Membership. If this 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 membership is terminated may reapply after one calendar year.

Additional information and forms are located on the Graduate Studies webpage.

**TAMU System Graduate Faculty Membership**
The Texas A&M University System Graduate Faculty Membership was developed to facilitate participation in graduate education for A&M System students, to provide graduate students access to faculty members’ expertise throughout the System, and to increase inter-institutional faculty collaboration. For more information contact Graduate Studies at 903.886.5161.

**Temporary Graduate Faculty Status**
The Dean of Graduate Studies may grant temporary graduate faculty status. Faculty who hold temporary status are eligible to teach graduate courses and/or serve on thesis or dissertation committees. Additional information and forms are located on the Graduate Studies webpage.