

## Graduate Faculty Policy

**Summary/Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to outline the various roles faculty may hold in directing graduate student research and teaching graduate courses. It describes the various memberships that faculty may hold on the Graduate Faculty and the processes by which these memberships are awarded.

Graduate Faculty member are those members of the University of Mississippi faculty who are responsible for teaching graduate courses and directing graduate student theses and dissertations. Faculty at the University of Mississippi can be categorized on a number of different parameters – faculty categories (Regular, Support, Research, and Emeritus), rank, and tenure status. In general, the following descriptions apply to this policy. *(Please see Faculty Titles and Ranks policy (ACA.FG.100.006) for additional clarification and description of faculty titles and ranks.)*

**Regular Faculty** – Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Full Professor with tenure or on the tenure track.

**Support Faculty** – Non-Tenure track faculty including Instructors/Lecturer Track; Clinical, Instructional, and Of Practice Faculty Track; Artist/Writers in Residence Track; Visiting Faculty; Acting Faculty; Adjunct Faculty; and Military Personnel Faculty.

**Research Faculty** – Non-Tenure track faculty with “Research” as a prefix in front of their professorial level academic title.

Graduate faculty membership guidelines and responsibilities are summarized below. All members of the Graduate Faculty must have a professorial level appointment in at least one academic degree-granting department. A Graduate Faculty member may have an appointment in more than one academic degree-granting department.

Appointment to the Graduate Faculty is automatic for Regular Faculty who qualify under the conditions noted below. The Graduate Council must approve any exceptions. Applicants for exception must be nominated by their Chair and endorsed by their Dean.

Appointment to the Graduate Faculty is not automatic for Research and professorial level Support Faculty. Research and professorial level Support Faculty with appropriate terminal degrees and with appointments in academic departments having graduate degree programs may be appointed as either Associate or Teaching members of the Graduate Faculty. Recommendations to appoint a member of the Research and professorial level Support Faculty as either a teaching or an associate member of the Graduate Faculty are made by the Chair and submitted to the Graduate Dean for approval. An official transcript of a terminal degree and curriculum vitae must be included in the recommendation or previously submitted to the Office of Human Resources.

**Full Membership:**

*Responsibilities:* teach graduate courses; direct theses and dissertations, participate on thesis, dissertation, and examining committees; eligible to serve on the Graduate Council if elected.

*Who:* Regular Faculty at Associate Professor or Professor rank who are Tenured or Tenure-Track and Selected Emeritus Faculty.

*Qualifications:* Terminal degree from an accredited institution in a discipline appropriate for the participating graduate program and promotion to or appointment as a tenured or tenure track Associate or Full Professor. Faculty members who were Full Members of the Graduate Faculty and are awarded Emeritus status may continue as Full Members of the Graduate Faculty for three years after retirement. Three years after their retirement, these Emeritus Faculty Members become Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty.

**Associate Membership:**

*Responsibilities:* teach graduate courses; direct theses; co-direct dissertations; participate on thesis, dissertation, and examining committees.

*Who:* Regular Faculty at Assistant Professor rank and approved professorial level Research and Support Faculty.

*Qualifications:* Terminal degree in a discipline appropriate for the participating graduate program and appointment in a graduate degree granting program as either an Assistant Professor or a professorial level Research or Support Faculty member with approval from the Graduate Dean to serve in this capacity.

**Teaching Membership:**

*Responsibilities:* teach graduate courses.

*Who:* Approved professorial level Research and Support Faculty.

*Qualifications:* Terminal degree in a discipline appropriate for the participating graduate program and appointment in a graduate degree granting program as a professorial level Research or Support Faculty member with approval from the Graduate Dean to serve in this capacity.

Exceptions to these guidelines for Associate and Teaching memberships require approvals by the chair and graduate dean.

The director of a doctoral dissertation or essay must hold a terminal doctoral degree. Only Associate and Full members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to vote for Graduate Council representatives.

An individual's continuing status within the Graduate Faculty may be reviewed, revoked, or downgraded based on approval by those in the academic channels involving the unit chair/director, academic line dean, and Graduate Dean.

***Process for Research Faculty to Obtain Approval to Direct Dissertations***

Research faculty members, who have an Associate or Full Professor title, are Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty and who wish to direct doctoral dissertations may request approval to do so using the following procedure. No special approval is required for Associate Members of the graduate faculty who wish to co-direct a dissertation. In making a request, the faculty member should provide the following information:

1. Current curriculum vitae.
2. Number of Master's committees served on (a) in his/her home department and (b) in outside departments.
3. Number of Ph.D. committees served on (a) in his/her home department and (b) in outside departments.
4. Number of Ph.D. Committees co-chaired within home department; note any research relevance between the proposed request and those, which were co-directed.
5. Information about involvement with graduate education including courses taught.
6. Information about whether the candidate has previously held a tenured or tenure track position.
7. Other information considered relevant to support this request.

Requests for Research Faculty to serve as dissertation directors must be supported by the department or graduate program and the dean of the School/College. These requests will be reviewed by the Graduate Council who will make a recommendation to the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean will make the final determination about the request based on recommendations of those in the academic channel of approval.