

Graduate Faculty Membership Guidelines

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Handbook makes clear that membership on the Graduate Faculty is an honor and serves the functional purpose of ensuring competence in the direction and advising of graduate students. It ensures that those teaching masters and doctoral students hold appropriate degrees and possess appropriate competencies.

The College of Liberal Arts prides itself on the quality of instruction we provide for our graduate students. In order to ensure that students graduating with an MA, MS, or PhD from Texas A&M University meet the standards we expect and that we remain compliant with our accrediting agencies, the following policy clearly outlines who may be appointed as a Member of the Graduate Faculty.¹

Tenured and tenure-track faculty can and should be appointed as Members of the Graduate Faculty. The faculty member's home department is responsible for initiating the nomination process. This should not begin until the faculty member has actually arrived on campus. Faculty appointed as Members of the Graduate Faculty are automatically eligible to teach graduate classes.

Faculty in Instructional titles are not eligible for appointment as Members of the Graduate Faculty. Consistent with the work expectations for these titles individuals may in select instances be appointed to a specific student's committee, but these must be done via Special Appointments. As stated in the guidelines for Academic Profession Track Faculty, prior to assigning faculty in Instructional titles to teach graduate classes approval to teach that specific course must be sought from the dean. Faculty in Clinical titles may be appointed as Members of the Graduate Faculty following consultation with the Dean. Faculty in Clinical titles may be assigned to graduate classes after approval from the Dean. Faculty in Research titles may be appointed as Members of the Graduate Faculty after demonstrating sustained involvement with graduate students.

Individuals who are not members of the faculty at Texas A&M University may not be appointed as Members of the Graduate Faculty. Where expertise is needed that exists nowhere at the university, a department may request a Special Appointment allowing distinguished colleagues from outside the university to serve as an additional member on a particular student's committee. The approval of all other individuals (e.g. adjunct faculty) will be handled on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Associate Dean for Graduate Education.

Individuals appointed as Members of the Graduate Faculty who resign from Texas A&M may continue to serve on existing committees, but should not be added to additional committees. It is the responsibility of a department to notify OGAPS and request removal of the faculty member when all students graduate or leave.

¹ Membership on the Graduate Faculty enables an individual to serve as a member, co-chair, or chair of committees for masters and doctoral students. Special Appointments are distinct from Members as Special Appointments serve only for a specific student. They may fully participate in the advising and training of the student but are extra members of the committee.