

1. GRADUATE FACULTY

The academic integrity of graduate programs rests primarily with the Graduate Faculty. The main responsibilities of the members of the Graduate Faculty are to (1) teach graduate students effectively, (2) foster independent learning, (3) enable students to contribute to a profession or field of study, (4) conduct scholarly research and creative work of high quality, (5) maintain proficiency in their discipline, (6) ensure graduate programs in their discipline are relevant and of high quality, and (7) cultivate the research and scholarly endeavors of graduate students. The University recognizes that each member of the Graduate Faculty contributes to the success of its graduate programs. Whether through classroom instruction, guiding academic research, professional supervision, or mentoring, the University seeks to find avenues to allow each Graduate Faculty member to best use his/her particular strengths. Toward that end, the University incorporates three categories of graduate faculty membership.

- 1.01 The Graduate Faculty at Sam Houston State University will have three categories of membership: (1) Full Membership – Doctoral, (2) Full Membership – Master’s, and (3) Associate Membership. Membership in these categories is based on academic qualifications and productivity in teaching and research/creative accomplishments. Membership is in no way limited by the graduate programs offered in each department/school/college.
- 1.02 Faculty members awarded Full Membership – Doctoral status may teach graduate classes, serve on thesis and/or dissertation committees, serve on the Graduate Council, and chair theses and dissertations.
- 1.03 Faculty members awarded Full Membership – Master’s status may teach graduate classes, serve on thesis and/or dissertation committees, serve on the Graduate Council, and chair theses.
- 1.04 Faculty members awarded Associate Membership status may teach graduate classes, serve on thesis and/or dissertation committees, and serve on the Graduate Council.

2. CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE GRADUATE FACULTY

Members of the graduate faculty must (a) possess a terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline from an institution accredited by a recognized accrediting agency, (b) demonstrate evidence of currency in the literature of the discipline, (c) be effective educators at the graduate level, and (d) be consistently

active in scholarly and/or artistic endeavors. On rare occasions, a faculty member with a long standing record of exemplary scholarly and/or artistic accomplishments with a subsequent lapse may be granted graduate faculty status at the appropriate level. The distinction between the three categories of graduate faculty membership rests primarily in the minimum scholarly or artistic expectations as broadly described below. The colleges and/or departments/schools are expected to provide more specific guidelines based upon the norms and expectations of their particular discipline and provide a copy of these guidelines to the Office of Graduate Studies.

- 2.01 Criteria for Full Membership - Doctoral status requires substantial, documented evidence of excellence in scholarly and creative activities on a current and sustained basis. These scholarly and creative efforts must be peer-reviewed publications, performances, or competitive externally-funded contracts or grants in the disciplinary or related area of assigned graduate responsibility. In addition, for Full Membership-Doctoral status, a graduate faculty member must be tenured/tenure-track or clinical faculty.
- 2.02 Criteria for Full Membership – Master’s status requires documented evidence of scholarly and creative activities on a current and sustained basis. These scholarly and creative efforts must be peer-reviewed publications, performances, or competitive externally-funded contracts or grants in the disciplinary or related area of assigned graduate responsibility. In addition, for Full Membership-Master’s status, a graduate faculty member must be tenured/tenure-track or clinical faculty.
- 2.03 Criteria for Associate Membership status requires documented evidence of scholarly and creative activities on a current and sustained basis. These scholarly and creative efforts must be peer-reviewed in the disciplinary or related area of assigned graduate responsibility. Scholarly and creative efforts include but are not limited to publications, performances, competitive externally funded contracts or grants, and presentations at scholarly conferences. For clinical faculty and non-tenured/tenure-track faculty or staff, appropriate professional experience may be used in conjunction with or in lieu of scholarly and creative activities.
- 2.04 Notwithstanding satisfaction of the above requirements, conferral or retraction of graduate faculty status is within the sole discretion of the University; no member of the faculty is hereby conveyed a property right or entitlement to such status; nor does retraction of such status impact a liberty interest in one’s name or reputation.