

## **Graduate Faculty Membership Criteria**

### **Biology**

Any academic unit offering courses or coursework in any College awarding an undergraduate degree on the Norman campus may appoint members of the Graduate Faculty. To make such an appointment, the academic unit must elect a Graduate Faculty Committee made up of members of the Graduate Faculty. (Graduate Faculty Charter, IV.1.a)

The Graduate Faculty Committee for Biology shall consist of the Graduate Studies Committee, which itself consists of at least five Biology faculty members and one Biology graduate student appointed by the Biology Graduate Student Association and approved by Committee A.

Terminal degree(s): Ph.D. in biology or related field, M.D., or D.V.M. (or equivalent degree)

Tested experience criteria: For those without a doctoral degree, we will accept, on a case-by-case basis, people with an M.S. degree plus at least five years' experience in research in a suitable field of biology.

Appointment process: Regular graduate faculty appointments will be recommended by the Graduate Studies Committee and then approved by the Chair. Special Member nominations will be recommended by the Thesis or Dissertation Committee Chair, approved by the Graduate Studies Committee, and approved by the Chair.

Term: The normal term for regular members of the Graduate Faculty is seven.

Appointment criteria:

<b>Graduate Faculty Appointment</b>	<b>Research, Scholarship or Creative activity Required</b>	<b>Other Criteria</b>
RM0 SM authority to teach classes	Ph.D. in biology or a related field, M.D., or D.V.M. (or equivalent degree), or an M.S. plus experience in a suitable field of biology	
RM1 SM authority to serve on master's committees	Same as for RM0 and authorship of at least one peer-reviewed original research article in a scientific journal	
RM2 SM authority to chair non-thesis master's committees*	N/A—we will not use this designation	
RM3 SM authority to serve on doctoral committees and/or chair master's thesis committees*	Criteria for RM 0, RM1, and first or senior authorship of at least one peer-reviewed original research article in a scientific journal in the past ten years	
RM4 SM authority to chair doctoral committees*	Ph.D. in biology or a related field, M.D., or D.V.M. (or equivalent degree) and first or senior authorship of at least three peer-reviewed original research articles in scientific journals in the past ten years	

\*Appointments of SM faculty to chair committees and/or count toward the departmental majority require review by the Graduate Council Graduate Faculty Membership Subcommittee and approval of the Graduate Dean, based on three criteria: close association with the unit

hosting the graduate program, permanence, and credentials comparable to regular Graduate Faculty members with the same graduate privileges.

Continuing research, scholarly, or creative activity: See above criteria.

Teaching and mentorship expectations: Demonstrated experience teaching and/or mentoring students. Good mentors should be supportive and inclusive, communicate effectively with their students, and support the students' professional development.

Regular performance review/ Retention/renewal criteria and process: In the final year of each faculty member's graduate status, the Graduate Studies Committee and Committee A will solicit confidential comments from graduate students in the faculty member's lab group, graduate students who have taken classes from that faculty member during the review cycle, and members of Thesis and Dissertation committees regarding the faculty member's mentoring and contributions to such committees. More frequent reviews may be conducted if there are concerns raised to the attention of the chair, Committee A, and/or the Graduate Studies Committee.

Standards and process for rescission of graduate faculty appointments or selected privileges: The Director of Graduate Studies and Committee A will evaluate circumstances that may justify removing or reducing the graduate faculty status of a Biology faculty member. Such circumstances could include, but are not limited to, a consistent pattern of problems in graduate student mentoring, or any instances of discrimination, sexual harassment, and illegal activities. [See Section 3.10 of the Faculty Handbook.]

Adopted by Biology Department faculty, April 27, 2022

Approved by graduate dean, February 1, 2023