

Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics Graduate Faculty Membership Criteria

Graduate faculty members are responsible for mentoring graduate students at the M.A. and Ph.D. levels in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. Graduate faculty members have an academic responsibility to remain current in their discipline. When supervising original work by graduate students, graduate faculty must also be active in scholarship or creative activity appropriate to the disciplines of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

1.- Graduate Faculty Committee

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 select a Graduate Faculty Committee made up of members of the graduate faculty. (Graduate Faculty Charter, IV.1.a)

The Graduate Faculty Committee for Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics shall consist of three persons: the Graduate Liaison, who acts as chair of the committee, and two members nominated by Committee A in consultation with the Graduate Liaison and Coordinators of other relevant programs. The committee shall review the qualifications of the faculty for membership and make recommendations for appointment to the Dean of the Graduate College and the Dean of the Dodge Family College of Arts and Sciences.

2.- Qualifications of Members of the Graduate Faculty

Appointment as a member of the graduate faculty extends over seven years. That status shall be reviewed by the Graduate Faculty Committee for renewal or change of status toward the close of the seven-year period, or sooner if the faculty member requests it or if the Graduate Faculty Committee requests such a review based on continued active research activity. Members of the Graduate Faculty appointed within the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics must hold a Ph.D. or the equivalent, depending on the specific discipline.

3.- Criteria for RM2 status (may teach graduate-level classes, serve on Master's degree committees, and chair a non-thesis Master's committee): The faculty member must be a regular (tenured, tenure-track, or ranked renewable term) faculty member with an instructional appointment in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics.

4.- Criteria for RM3 status (RM2 privileges and may chair a Master's thesis committee and may serve on doctoral committees): The faculty member must be a regular (tenured, tenure-track, or ranked renewable term) faculty member with an instructional appointment in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. The member must also have won an award or have had an article or book chapter, or a scholarly book manuscript accepted for publication.

5.- Criteria for RM4 status (RM3 privileges and may chair doctoral committees): The criteria for untenured faculty will be different from those for tenured faculty:

5.1.- Untenured Faculty: The faculty member must be a regular (tenure-track or ranked renewable term) faculty member with an instructional appointment in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. The Committee shall recommend tenure-track or ranked renewable term professors for eligibility to direct dissertations if their performance by that time demonstrates significant scholarly activity, including at least one refereed scholarly article, book chapter, or book accepted for publication. Assistant professors in MLLL appointed at the entry level with recently completed doctorates shall be considered by the Graduate Faculty Committee for eligibility to chair doctoral committees at the end of two years as a member of the department. Faculty hired as advanced tenure-track or ranked renewable term professors (those hired on a shortened probationary period or those with at least two years of experience in a similar position at another institution) may be considered by the Graduate Faculty Committee for RM4 status at the time of employment, provided they have demonstrated significant scholarly activity within the past five years including at least one refereed scholarly article, book chapter, or book accepted for publication.

5.2.-Tenured Faculty: The faculty member must be a tenured faculty member with an instructional appointment in the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics. The faculty member must also have published or had accepted for publication a peer-reviewed monograph within the past ten years; or published or had accepted for publication an edited volume or a peer-reviewed article or book chapter within the past five years; have received a national-level research grant or fellowship within the past five years; or have received a significant internal OU grant or fellowship within the past three years.

6.- Special Member status: Members of the faculty of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics who are not members of the graduate faculty as well as faculty from other institutions may be accorded the status of Special Member of the graduate faculty for a period of up to two years when a special need arises to offer a particular graduate course or to serve on a Master's or doctoral committee. Such special members should hold a Ph.D. in Modern Languages, Literatures, Linguistics or a related discipline. Special members who serve on Master's or doctoral committees for MLLL should have a record of scholarly achievement evidenced by some combination of journal articles, book chapters, and scholarly monographs published or accepted for publication within the previous ten years.

Appointments of Special Member faculty to chair committees and/or count toward the departmental majority require review and approval of the Graduate Dean. Candidates for special member status should demonstrate a close association with the unit hosting the graduate program, and credentials comparable to regular graduate faculty members with the same graduate privileges.

7.- Other considerations

The Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics affirms that consistently meeting the obligation to supervise, assess, and advance the work of graduate students is central to the work of members of the graduate faculty. Graduate faculty should also be engaged in continuing research and scholarly activity. Meeting these obligations will be measured according to the following criteria:

- 7.1.- Being available to students on whose committees one serves (including being present for oral exams and defenses; making time for regular meetings with mentees and for two annual meeting to review student progress).
- 7.2.- Attending and participating in graduate student committee meetings for students on whose committee one serves.
- 7.3.- Providing substantive and timely feedback on student work, including theses and dissertations.
- 7.4.- Providing appropriate information to the Graduate Studies Committee regarding graduate student assessment when required.
- 7.5.- Providing feedback to the Graduate Studies Committee on graduate program admissions decisions when required.

When a faculty member with graduate faculty status consistently fails to meet some or all of these obligations, graduate faculty status may be recommended for reduction or suspension by a vote of the Graduate Faculty Committee. The Graduate Faculty Committee may vote to suspend graduate faculty status in cases where a graduate faculty member is found to have engaged in professional misconduct, or the exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students (see Faculty Handbook, 3.2.2 Academic Responsibility). The recommendation of the Graduate Faculty Committee will be forwarded to the dean of the Graduate College.

Approved by graduate dean, March 11, 2025.