

Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication

October 9, 2020

Tested experience policy

This policy articulates criteria for Gaylord College faculty not eligible for appointment to OU Graduate College faculty to be considered for graduate faculty privileges based on “tested experience.”

This tested experience policy follows a 2019 OU Graduate Council mandate for each academic unit to define “tested experience” that may substitute for the terminal degree, permitting special member (SM) appointments to graduate faculty with privileges commensurate with level of the tested experience.

The Graduate Council directive states a tested experience policy must contain two elements:

- definition of the terminal degree appropriate for the discipline
- definition of appropriate tested experience that may substitute for the terminal degree

Definition of the terminal degree

Gaylord College has academic and professional graduate programs. Academic programs are the MA (thesis option) and PhD. For these academic programs, the terminal degree is a doctorate in mass (or media) communication, communication or a related academic discipline where faculty research focused on mediated communication.

The professional degrees are the MA (non-thesis, professional project and comprehensive exam) options, the online MA (non-thesis, all coursework), and the master of professional writing (MPW). For these programs, the terminal degree can be the PhD, master of fine arts (MFA), master of professional writing (MPW), juris doctorate (JD).

Definition of appropriate tested experience

OU faculty not eligible for appointment to graduate faculty can become eligible for special member status with privileges defined based on the meeting the following levels of tested experience:

SM Tier 1 privileges: May teach graduate classes (SM equal to RM0)

Tested experience:

Academic degree required: Non-graduate through master’s degree

Non-graduate criteria:

--five years senior-level professional experience in media communication or related field

--two years higher education teaching

Master’s degree criteria:

--three years professional experience in media communication or related field

SM Tier 2 privileges: Tier 1 and serve on non-thesis MA and MPW committees (SM equal to RM1)

Tested experience:

Academic degree required: Master's degree, MFA, MPW, JD or equivalent
OR two of the following:

- full-time OU faculty appointment OR two years full-time higher education teaching
- record of continuous and current academic and/or creative work
- has chaired and/or served on MA committees in past
- three years professional experience in media communication or related field

SM Tier 3 privileges: Tier 2 and serve on MA thesis committees. (SM similar to RM2)

Tested experience:

Academic degree required: Master's degree, MFA, MPW, JD or equivalent
OR two of the following:

- full-time OU faculty appointment (but lacking terminal degree)
- record of continuous and current academic and/or creative work
- has chaired and/or served on MA committees in past
- three years professional experience in media communication or related field

SM Tier 4 privileges: Tier 3 and serve on doctoral committees. (SM equal to RM3)

Tested experience:

Academic degree required: PhD

Additionally one of the following:

- tenure-track OU faculty appointment
- record of continuous and current scholarship and publication
- OU emeritus faculty with equivalent graduate faculty privileges before retirement

Additional information and background

The 2019 Graduate Council redefinition of Graduate Faculty appointment criteria is at:
<https://www.ou.edu/gradcollege/faculty-and-staff-resources/graduate-faculty>

From Graduate Council policy adopted spring 2019:

To define the credentials or tested experience appropriate for the unit, the criteria should include the following:

--The definition of the terminal degree appropriate for the discipline.

Any applicable discipline(s) or subfield(s) should be clearly defined. In most cases, the terminal degree is a research doctorate degree from an accredited institution in the United States

Professional doctorates (JD, MD) are not research doctorate degrees.

--A definition of appropriate tested experience that may substitute for the terminal degree.

Tested experience may include a record of research, scholarship, or creative activity demonstrating expertise in the discipline or sub-field OR professional accomplishments that demonstrate such expertise.

Special members of graduate faculty may not chair graduate committees.

Adopted by Graduate Committee, Oct. 9, 2020.