QUALIFICATIONS

According to SACSCOC Faculty Credentials Guidelines, faculty teaching graduate and post-baccalaureate course work must have an earned doctorate/terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline.

1. Does this faculty member hold a terminal degree in this discipline or a related field?
   • If yes, Please indicate the:
     Degree:__________________
     Discipline/Related Field:__________________
   • If no, provide documentation of extensive work experience in the field, professional licensure and certifications related to the teaching assignment, honors and awards, continuing professional development, relevant peer-reviewed publications, and/or continuous documented excellence in teaching. These types of qualifications are especially important in professional, technical, and technology-dependent fields.
The faculty member, based on the evidence presented above, has my endorsement for designation as a graduate faculty member.*

__________________________________
Department Chairperson

__________________________________
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

__________________________________
College Dean

__________________________________
Date Approved by Graduate Council

*Faculty approved based on a terminal degree have permanent status. Faculty approved based on special expertise will be approved for a five-year period.

APPENDIX A

As excerpted from the Resource Manual for the Principles of Accreditation (SACSCOC)

6.2a
For each of its educational programs, the institution justifies and documents the qualifications of its faculty members. It is the institution’s obligation to justify and document the qualifications of its faculty. Determining the acceptability of faculty qualifications requires judicious use of professional judgment, especially when persons do not hold degrees in the teaching discipline or are qualified based on criteria other than their academic credentials. Similarly, persons holding a degree at the same or lower level than the level at which the course is taught require additional qualifications and the application of professional judgment. Additional justification is needed for these cases as compared to cases where the academic credentials are a “perfect match” for the teaching assignments. Appropriate qualifications may also differ depending on whether a course is generally transferable to other institutions; qualifications for teaching nontransferable technical courses depend heavily on professional experience and appropriate certifications or work experience. Judicious use of professional judgment should also be exercised by those asked to serve as external reviewers of faculty qualifications.