

**Graduate Faculty**  
Appointment and Reappointment  
Criteria and Standards

Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology  
College of Agricultural

Date Approved by Department: 11-14-2020

Department Head/Chair: Joshua Duke

Date Approved by Graduate School: 01/22/2021

Dean, the Graduate School: George T. Flowers

I. Levels of Membership

The Department recognizes two levels of membership on the Graduate Faculty.

Level 1: The faculty member may teach graduate classes, may serve on both masters and doctoral committees and may direct masters' theses.

Level 2: The faculty member may participate in the activities delineated for Level 1 and may also direct doctoral dissertations.

II. Criteria and Standards for Initial Appointment and Reappointment.

Level 1:

Initial Appointment:

The candidate should hold the highest degree commonly awarded in the field (Ph.D.) and a faculty appointment of Assistant Professor or above. If the candidate does not have this degree and appointment, exceptional achievement is required.

Reappointment:

A. Prior Service at either Level 1 or Level 2, and

B. Candidate has during the term of appointment contributed to the graduate program through:

1) Maintaining a level of teaching quality commensurate with departmental peers in graduate courses as evidenced by relevant student evaluations,

Or

2) Contributing in an active and positive fashion to graduate advisory committees served upon,

Or

3) Providing sound and competent direction to students directed at the masters level.

Level 2:

Initial Appointment:

A. The candidate should hold the highest degree commonly awarded in the field (Ph.D.) and a faculty appointment of Assistant Professor or above. If the candidate does not have this degree and appointment, exceptional achievement is required.

And

B. The candidate should have served on at least one (1) examining committee. This may be one (1) final master's examination as the chair or one (1) doctoral examination (general or final) as chair or committee member.

And

C. The candidate shall have a record of peer-reviewed publication. The publication requirement will be satisfied typically by publication of at least two (2) full-length research articles in reputable refereed journals. ("Reputable journals" are those identified as such by faculty in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.) The research methods in these articles should reflect methods appropriate to the nominee's field of specialization. The nominee must be senior author on at least one of these publications. The publication of a book or research

monograph can satisfy this requirement completely or in part if it makes a scholarly contribution to the author's field of specialization. Such publications must clearly demonstrate the author's research competence.

And

**D.** In cases where the Candidate has established a significant scholarly commitment other than peer-reviewed publications, and demonstrated in some other outstanding way her/his ability to direct doctoral students, the Graduate Dean may approve a reduction in the requirements for B and C above. A request to the Graduate Dean to approve such a reduction would be initiated by the Department Head or Chair in writing after a positive vote by a majority of the Level 2 faculty in the Department. Evidence of significant professional scholarly commitment and other ways to demonstrate her/his ability to direct doctoral students may include any one, or any combination of such activities as: (a) presenting papers before learned and professional organizations; (b) writing book reviews, scientific and industrial reports, short notes, popular articles, or similar materials; (c) rendering any type of consulting service which provides evidence of the scholar's professional standing and competence in her/his special field; (d) participating in the activities of appropriate scholarly scientific and professional organizations by holding offices or serving in other responsible capacities; (e) performing significant administrative duties connected with the graduate program of a department or of the university; and (f) attainment of extramural support that is evidence of professional standing.

### Reappointment

During the present term of appointment, the candidate shall have met the criteria and minimal standards outlined under sections B, C, and D under Criteria and Standards for Initial Appointment.

### III. Term of Appointment

Level 1: The term of appointment shall be 5 years.

Level 2: The term of appointment shall be 7 years.

Note: A faculty member appointed to Level 1 may be nominated for Level 2 status at any time. Faculty members serving at Level 2 can be nominated for reappointment at Level 1 or Level 2 during the last 6 months of their current term.

### IV. Procedures for Nomination: Initial Appointment and Reappointment

Level 1: The Department Head/Chair shall nominate candidates for initial appointment or for reappointment. The nomination dossier should contain a copy of the nominee's current curriculum vita or an updated tenure and promotion document (as outlined in the Faculty Handbook). The Department Head/Chair in approving the nomination certifies the accuracy of information contained in the nomination package and that the procedures, criteria and standards contained within the approved departmental plan have been followed and met. Following the approval of the Department Head/Chair the nomination will go to the Graduate School for review and action by the Graduate Dean.

Level 2: Procedures shall be the same as for Level 1 with one additional step. That is, prior to forwarding the nomination to the Graduate School, nomination materials shall be reviewed by all Level 2 graduate faculty members within the Department. Following the review, the Department Head/Chair shall call for a vote by all Level 2 graduate faculty by secret ballot relative to support or non-support of the nomination. If a positive vote by a simple majority of the Level 2 faculty in the Department is recorded, the nomination may continue. The result of the vote, as well as the number of Level 2 graduate faculty within the Department, shall be transmitted with nomination material to the Graduate School for review and action by the Graduate Dean.