GRADUATE FACULTY MEMBERS

The Graduate Faculty are responsible for teaching classes restricted to graduate students, designing the academic content of graduate degree programs, and supervising the writing and defense of graduate student research in the form of theses and dissertations.

Minimum Qualification

To qualify for appointment to the Graduate Faculty, individuals normally will hold the terminal degree in their discipline.

Membership - Graduate Faculty Categories

There are four categories of membership of the Graduate Faculty: Full Members; Associate Members; Graduate Teaching Members; and Special Members. All members of the Graduate Faculty will be associated with a home unit. For Full Members of the Graduate Faculty, the home unit is the primary unit of appointment to rank. For Associate, Graduate Teaching and Special Members of the Graduate Faculty, the home unit is the academic unit responsible for the particular graduate program initiating the request for nomination. Once appointed, members of the Graduate Faculty are available to serve across units and within multi-/cross-disciplinary graduate programs.

Graduate Faculty membership is granted to ensure that graduate education is of the highest quality in terms of programs, intellectual acumen, and cutting-edge research. Members of the Graduate Faculty are expected to conduct themselves ethically and in accordance with University policy. If a member of the Graduate Faculty is deemed to have violated University policy, the Graduate Dean can suspend or remove the faculty member from the Graduate Faculty which will result in the suspension of the rights of membership (i.e., teaching classes restricted to graduate students, designing the academic content of graduate degree programs, and supervising the writing and defense of graduate student research in the form of theses and dissertations). In such cases, the Chair of the Department (or equivalent) and/or the College Dean will ensure that the impacted graduate students are assigned a new advisor and their funding continued. The term of the suspension will be determined by the Graduate Dean in accordance with University policies.

Appointment Procedures

Full Members

Full Members of the Graduate Faculty are tenured or tenure-track faculty at the University of Maryland, College Park, with duties in teaching and research (Assistant and Associate Professors, Professors, and Distinguished University Professors); and College Park Professors. Appointment to the Graduate Faculty is automatic upon appointment to the University of Maryland faculty.

Faculty awarded Emeritus status continue as Full Members of the Graduate Faculty for five years after retirement and may be reappointed for additional five-year terms thereafter, subject to nomination by the home unit. The Nomination to the Graduate Faculty Form is available here. (https://gradschool.umd.edu/sites/gradschool.umd.edu/files/uploads/Forms/nomination_to_graduate_faculty_form.pdf)

Associate Members

Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty normally come from the ranks specified from the following categories in the UMCP Policy on Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure of Faculty: faculty with duties primarily in research, scholarship, or artistic creativity (Assistant Research Professor, Associate Research Professor, and Research Professor; Assistant and Associate Research Scientist, and Senior Research Scientist; Assistant and Associate Research Scholar, and Senior Research Scholar; Assistant and Associate Research Engineer, and Senior Research Engineer; Assistant and Associate Artist-in-Residence, and Senior Artist-in-Residence); field faculty (Agent, Senior and Principal Agent); faculty engaged exclusively or primarily in library service (Librarian 3 and 4); and additional faculty ranks (Adjunct Assistant and Associate Professor, and Adjunct Professor; visiting appointments that correspond to eligible ranks listed above; and Professor of the Practice, and University of Maryland Professor). Exceptionally, faculty in other ranks with appropriate terminal qualifications, expertise, and experience may be proposed for Associate Membership in the Graduate Faculty.

Appointment is by approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. Nomination for appointment to Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty is made by the Head of the home unit, on the recommendation of the Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the unit. Each nomination will include a letter of support from the Head of the home unit, confirmation of approval of the Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the unit, and current curriculum vitae. The term of appointment is five years and is renewable upon re-nomination by the Head of the home unit after appropriate review within the unit. The appointment is terminated upon resignation or retirement.

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graduate teaching members

Graduate Teaching Members of the Graduate Faculty are individuals whose primary duty is teaching. A Graduate Teaching Member is expected to have a graduate degree at a minimum. Appointment is by approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. Nomination for appointment to Graduate Teaching Member of the Graduate Faculty is made by the Head of the home unit, on the recommendation of Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the unit. Each nomination will include a letter of support from the Head of the home unit and current curriculum vitae. The term of appointment is five years and is renewable upon re-nomination by the Head of the home unit after appropriate review within the unit. The appointment is terminated upon resignation.

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Special Members

Special Members of the Graduate Faculty are scholars who have no official affiliation with the University of Maryland.

Appointment is by approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. Nomination for Appointment to Special Member of the Graduate Faculty is made by the Head of the home unit, on the recommendation of the
Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the unit. Each nomination will include a letter of support from the Head of the home unit, confirmation of approval of the Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the unit, and current curriculum vitae. The term of appointment is five years and is renewable upon re-nomination by the Head of the home unit after appropriate review within the unit. The appointment is terminated upon resignation or retirement.

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Exceptional Appointments
Exceptions to the procedures listed above may be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School and will be reported to the Graduate Council at its final meeting of each academic year. Each request for an exception will include a letter of justification from the Head of the home unit, making a compelling case that the exception is necessary to fill a particular need, confirmation of approval of the Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the home unit, and current curriculum vitae. All exceptions will be effective for periods of up to five years and may be re-approved for periods of up to five years based on a review in the home unit and the recommendation of the Head of the home unit. The appointment is terminated upon resignation or retirement.

Faculty of Multi-Campus Graduate Degree Programs
Exceptionally, faculty who hold appointments at other institutions of the University System of Maryland and who participate in approved multi-campus graduate degree programs may be appointed Full Members of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Maryland. Such exceptions will be proposed on an individual basis, be subject to approval by the Dean of the Graduate School, and be reported to the Graduate Council at its final meeting of each academic year. Each request for an exception will include a letter of justification from the Graduate Director of the multi-campus program, confirmation of approval of the Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the program, and current curriculum vitae. All exceptions will be effective for periods of up to five years, and may be re-approved for periods of up to five years based on a review by the program and the recommendation of the Graduate Director of the program. The appointment is terminated upon resignation or retirement.

Prerogatives of Membership by Category

Full Members
Full Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to teach graduate-level courses; direct and serve on graduate program committees; direct Master’s thesis research and chair Master’s thesis examining committees; direct doctoral dissertation research and chair doctoral dissertation examining committees; and vote for and serve on the Graduate Council and its committees.

Associate Members
Associate Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to teach graduate-level courses, direct and serve on graduate program committees, direct Master’s thesis research, and chair master’s thesis examining committees. They can also co-direct doctoral dissertation research and co-chair dissertation examining committees, but they cannot direct doctoral dissertation research or chair dissertation examining committees.

GRADUATE TEACHING MEMBERS
Graduate Teaching Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to teach graduate-level courses. Graduate Teaching Members cannot serve as thesis/dissertation advisors nor direct, co-direct, or serve on thesis and dissertation committees or graduate program committees.

Special Members
Special Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to serve on graduate program committees and co-direct Master’s thesis research, but may not direct or co-direct doctoral dissertation research or chair Master’s Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation Examination Committees or direct a graduate program.

Membership of Former University of Maryland Faculty
Full Members of the Graduate Faculty who terminate their employment at the University of Maryland under honorable circumstances (and who do not have emeritus status) may for a 12-month period following their termination serve as members and Chairs of Dissertation examination committees. They may not serve as Dean’s representatives.

Exceptions to Policy
Exceptions to the prerogatives listed above must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School and will be reported to the Graduate Council at its final meeting of each academic year. In particular, the Dean of the Graduate School may authorize Associate and Special Members of the Graduate Faculty to chair a doctoral Dissertation or master’s Thesis Examining Committee on the recommendation of the home unit that the member possesses the requisite skills and scholarly expertise. Each request for an exception will include a letter of justification from the Head of the home unit, making a compelling case that the exception is necessary to fill a particular need, confirmation of the approval of the Full Members of the Graduate Faculty in the home unit, and a current curriculum vitae. No exceptions will be made for Graduate Teaching Members of the Graduate Faculty.

Graduate Teaching Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to teach graduate-level courses. Graduate Teaching Members cannot serve as thesis/dissertation advisors nor direct, co-direct, or serve on thesis and dissertation committees or graduate program committees.

Special Members
Special Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to serve on graduate program committees and co-direct Master’s thesis research, but may not direct or co-direct doctoral dissertation research or chair Master’s Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation Examination Committees or direct a graduate program.

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Graduate Teaching Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to teach graduate-level courses. Graduate Teaching Members cannot serve as thesis/dissertation advisors nor direct, co-direct, or serve on thesis and dissertation committees or graduate program committees.

Special Members
Special Members of the Graduate Faculty are eligible to serve on graduate program committees and co-direct Master’s thesis research, but may not direct or co-direct doctoral dissertation research or chair Master’s Thesis or Doctoral Dissertation Examination Committees or direct a graduate program.

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Special Members
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