

## Terminal Degrees

**Original Implementation:** July 21, 2009

**Last Revision:** October 29, 2018

Stephen F. Austin State University is committed to maintaining a high quality faculty. Toward that end, the university aspires to recruit and retain faculty members with terminal degrees in their disciplines. A terminal degree is defined as the generally accepted highest degree in a field of study.

As a general rule, possession of an earned doctorate or other recognized terminal degree from an accredited institution in an area appropriate to the individual's discipline will be required for appointment to a tenure-track or tenured faculty position.

Exceptions to the requirement of a terminal degree may be made by the provost and vice president for academic affairs, but only upon recommendation by the academic unit head and dean of the college. The following circumstances may justify approval of an exception to the requirement of a recognized terminal degree in a discipline-related field: (a) well-documented preparation and experience appropriate to the discipline that meets accreditation standards; or (b) exceptional preparation and experience for instruction in a discipline when the faculty member has a recognized terminal degree in another area.

Terminal degree requirements for appointment to a tenure-track position will be clearly stated in position announcements. Where appropriate, an offer of employment will provide the time period in which the terminal degree must be completed. Verification of a completed terminal degree will require an official transcript sent directly to the Office of Academic Affairs by the degree-granting institution.

**Cross Reference:** Academic and Professional Qualifications (7.1); Academic Appointments and Titles (7.2); File Maintenance for Faculty Personnel Files (4.6)

**Responsible for Implementation:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Contact for Revision:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Forms:** Faculty Certification of Credentials; Recommendation for Appointment

**Board Committee Assignment:** Academic and Student Affairs