Policy Name: Terminal Degrees

Policy Number: 7.30

Is this policy new, being reviewed/revised, or deleted? Review/Revise

Date of last revision, if applicable: 4/14/2015

Unit(s) Responsible for Policy Implementation: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Purpose of Policy (what does it do): To comply with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) reaccreditation standards that require an institutional statement about terminal degrees.

Reason for the addition, revision, or deletion (check all that apply):

- Scheduled Review
- Change in law
- Response to audit finding
- Internal Review
- Other, please explain:

Please complete the appropriate section:

Specific rationale for new policy:

Specific rationale for each substantive revision: There were no substantive changes made to the policy, only minor grammatical revisions.

Specific rationale for deletion of policy:

Additional Comments:

Reviewers:

Academic Affairs Policy Committee
Steve Bullard, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Damon Derrick, General Counsel
Terminal Degrees

Original Implementation: July 21, 2009
Last Revision: April 14, 2015 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 an earned doctorate or other 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 doctorate or other 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