

## SACS QUALIFICATIONS FOR TEACHING\*

\*Based on Standard 6.2 of the 2018 *Principles of Accreditation*, and SACS "Faculty Credentials" Guidelines statement

### Basic requirement for teaching courses:

- A graduate degree\*\* and 18 credit hours in the discipline of instruction for UG courses\*\*\*
- A doctoral/terminal degree\*\* in the discipline (or a closely related discipline) for G courses\*\*\*

\*\*Include pertinent information for the degree related to courses taught by the faculty member (e.g. not just "Ph.D., LSU," but "Ph.D., LSU, Applied Mathematics with Concentration in Actuarial Science").

\*\*\*Discipline-specific accrediting bodies, such as the Council of Social Work Educators or the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, may place additional teaching qualifications upon a program.

### SACS considers alternative credentials for teaching qualification:

- The alternative credentials must be specific to the course or courses the individual is being hired to teach (not to the discipline as a whole).
- The institution must be prepared to demonstrate that each of its faculty members is the best person available for a course given its location and the caliber of faculty it can attract.
- Prior teaching experience by itself is not sufficient to justify an alternative teaching hire.
- Faculty must be qualified to instruct regardless of contractual or tenured status.  
*A faculty member possessing a degree at the same level at which the course is taught bears special scrutiny. The faculty member's degree should not be at a lower level.*
- Alternative credentials for courses at the baccalaureate level are most frequently relevant to pre-professional fields of study such as criminal justice, nursing, and accounting, and the arts (music, theatre, visual arts, creative writing). They must be able to be furnished upon request.
- *The less obvious the connection between the courses taught and the faculty member's academic degrees/coursework, the greater the need for alternative credentialing.*

### Examples of alternative credentials related to the course(s) the faculty member is teaching include:

- Related work experience in the field (e.g. police chief, office manager, business owner)
- Related professional licensure and certifications (e.g. CPA, CMA, CCRN)
- Related peer reviewed publications
- Related scholarly/creative accomplishments in the field
- Related presentations at professional meetings
- Related juried performances or exhibitions (symphony, opera, museum exhibit)
- Related sponsored recordings (e.g. national radio)
- Related honors and awards (e.g. MacArthur Genius Grant)
- Related professional memberships (e.g. American Society of Composers, Authors, & Publishers)

### The university must keep the following records on each faculty member:

- Original transcripts
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three letters of recommendation pertinent to the teaching position of most recent hire (e.g. If an adjunct is promoted to lecturer, new letters must be furnished.)
- Certification of Credentials documentation