

Terminal Degrees

Original Implementation: July 21, 2009

Last Revision: November 1, 2021

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 is required for appointment to a tenure-track or tenured faculty position.

Exceptions to the general rule of a terminal degree may be allowed. Upon recommendation of the academic unit head and the dean of the college, the provost and executive vice president for academic affairs may approve the following circumstances in lieu of the 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. When 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: Executive Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

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

Forms: Faculty Certification of Credentials; Recommendation for Appointment

Board Committee Assignment: Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Revision History: October 29, 2018

April 14, 2015
April 17, 2012