

Teaching Professor Title Description

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This is a draft for public comment. It has not yet been submitted for Senate consideration.

Below is a Teaching Professor title description that is carefully modeled after the Faculty Handbook descriptions that already exist for the CP, PoP, and RP tracks.

Title descriptions in the Faculty Handbook include “Administrative Notes.” The notes typically cover HR issues and various technical details related to appointments. We make recommendations as to what the notes should say, understanding that the Office of Human Resources, University Counsel, and the Provost typically contribute to this portion of the entry.

Title Description

The teaching professor titles are available only for long term, non-tenure-track faculty members whose efforts are devoted primarily to the teaching mission of the university and whose skill and independence are at the level of the tenure-track faculty. Assistant, associate, and full teaching professors are expected to achieve a similar level of professional expertise as their counterparts on the tenure track. Teaching professors at higher ranks can demonstrate impact inside and outside the university through activities such as pedagogical innovation, curriculum development, and leadership roles. Consistent with their rank and local needs, teaching professors are also expected to contribute teaching-related service, especially in areas that concern advising, mentoring, curriculum, and the management of degree programs.

The teaching professor titles may not be used to replicate the combined teaching and research responsibilities of the tenure track faculty. Accordingly, job duties of a teaching professor appointment should not require conducting research, publishing its results, or advising graduate research students. Teaching professors may choose to participate in such activities, especially when related to pedagogy, and should stay current with research in their area to best incorporate it into their teaching. Nevertheless, research activity must not be required for appointment, reappointment, or promotion along the teaching professor track.

Decisions about appointment and promotion are made on the authority of the dean; approval by the provost or the Board of Trustees is not necessary. Promotion guidelines are comparable in rigor and process to those for tenure-track faculty.

Teaching professors (all ranks) have university voting rights. See college-specific legislation for information about college-level voting rights.

The titles “teaching professor,” “associate teaching professor,” and “assistant teaching professor” are available in a given college only upon satisfaction of a special approval process specified in the Faculty Senate’s enabling legislation.

Administrative Notes

- The unmodified “teaching professor” titles reflect salaried positions that are subject to affirmative action regulations.
- Teaching professors usually hold a graduate degree that is appropriate to the level and field of instruction the individual will provide. Higher degrees may be required for appointment to higher ranks based on college or school policy. The dean may accept other degrees based on college or school policy.
- Unless otherwise specified, terms of positions bearing these titles shall normally be up to five years and can be renewed indefinitely. Colleges and schools may establish their own appointment term lengths and renewal procedures as part of the Faculty Senate legislation authorizing the use of these titles in a college or school.
- Individuals appointed in these titles may apply for advertised tenure-track positions but may not move from these positions to an unadvertised tenure-track position.
- College or school legislation, as approved in the process with the Faculty Senate authorizing the use of the title in that college or school, governs various terms and conditions, including percent limitations on the number of such appointments, voting rights, and access to grievance and appeals procedures.
- This title, available for use at the assistant, associate and professor rank, may be modified with “acting,” “courtesy,” or “visiting.” The associate and professor ranks of this title may be modified with “emeritus/a.” See Appendix, “Trustee-Approved Modifiers for Academic Titles,” for definition of each modifier.