

Minimal standards for Graduate Faculty
School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (SMSS)

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The School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (SMSS) has adopted the following set of minimal standards for graduate faculty to teach graduate courses and advise Master's and PhD students. The SMSS Graduate Curriculum Committee will recommend graduate faculty status at three levels. These levels are:

1. **Master's Membership:** Reserved for tenured or tenure-track full-time SMSS faculty members who have a doctorate in mathematics, statistics, or related areas. For initial appointment, a Master's member must possess a record of professional achievement in the previous five years that includes appropriate scholarship with at least *three (3) quality refereed research publications* and teaching experience at graduate or upper-division undergraduate level. This is a six-year appointment, renewable upon review. Reappointment to the Master's membership is based on the faculty member's scholarly achievement during the last appointment period. A Master's member may teach graduate courses at both Master's and PhD levels, supervise a Master's project, serve as a research mentor for institutionally-funded Master's-level students, serve as a member or as the Chair of a Master's Thesis committee, and serve as a member of a Doctoral Dissertation committee. Exceptional cases may receive special consideration from the SMSS Graduate Curriculum Committee.
2. **Doctoral Membership:** Reserved for tenured or tenure-track full-time SMSS faculty members who have a doctorate in mathematics, statistics, or related areas. For initial appointment, a doctoral member must possess a record of professional achievement in the previous five years that includes appropriate scholarship with at least *five (5) quality refereed research publications* and teaching experience at the graduate level. This is a six-year appointment, renewable upon review. Reappointment to doctoral membership is based on the faculty member's scholarly achievement during the last appointment period, including advising PhD students and teaching PhD-level courses. A doctoral member may teach graduate courses at both Master's and PhD levels, supervise a Master's project, serve as a research mentor for institutionally-funded Master's or Doctoral level students, serve as a member or as the Chair of a Master's Thesis committee, advise a Doctoral Dissertation, serve as a member or as the Chair of a Doctoral Dissertation committee, and actively participate in leadership of the doctoral program. Exceptional cases may receive special consideration from the SMSS Graduate Curriculum Committee.
3. **Special Membership:** Reserved for faculty who hold a PhD, who do not satisfy Master's or Doctoral membership, and whose particular expertise meets a special need of at least Master's level teaching at the School. The person appointed should have a doctorate in mathematics, statistics, or related area. Special members of the graduate faculty must demonstrate the potential for successful teaching at the graduate level. This is a three-year appointment reserved for tenure-track and tenured faculty who do not have a full-time appointment in the SMSS but are working in an interdisciplinary area of science, and is renewable upon review. A special member may teach graduate courses at

both Master's and PhD levels and advise a Master's Thesis or a Doctoral Dissertation. Exceptional cases may receive special consideration to meet the program needs from the SMSS Graduate Curriculum Committee.

All the above appointments are processed by the SMSS Graduate Curriculum Committee in accordance to minimal standards and by consideration of possible exceptional circumstances. All requests for initial appointment, reappointment or change of status should be accompanied with the most recent curriculum vita and a separate list of publications in the last five years. The Graduate Curriculum Committee may request additional information if needed.

Initial Appointment. Initial appointment is for six years starting in full Fall or Spring semester. A request for initial appointment should be sent to the SMSS School Director before the new semester starts. All newly hired tenure-track faculty are granted Master's Membership status (or higher) for six years starting with their position at UTRGV.

Reappointment. Reappointment to the same status may be requested at any time. Once approved, the same category of membership will be extended for another six year term starting from the following semester.

Change of Status. Change of status from one to another type of membership may be requested at any time. Once approved, the new membership status is granted starting from the following semester.

Termination of Status. If a faculty member doesn't submit a request for reappointment or for change of status, then his/her graduate membership status is automatically terminated at the end of their current appointment. If the status was terminated, then a request for initial appointment should be submitted. It is strongly recommended to submit a request during the last year of current membership.