

Participating v. Supporting Faculty Status

The following information is intended to serve as a guideline for determining faculty status of individuals. Participating faculty members are essentially those faculty members who participate in the activities of the business college/department which go beyond direct teaching involvement. In classifying any particular faculty member, consider the following:

	YES	NO
1. Does the faculty member participate in making policy decisions affecting degree program requirements, research activities, or service commitments?		
2. Does the faculty member participate in the governance of the college/department (e.g., service on committees at the <i>college level</i> such as the Faculty Evaluation Oversight Committee, Graduate or Undergraduate Programs Committee, Priorities and Goals Committee, Library Committee, Information Technology Committee, College Assessment Activities or the <i>departmental level</i> such a curriculum committee, textbook selection committee, or voting member in general departmental meetings)?		
3. Does the faculty member participate in a variety of non-class teaching activities (e.g., student club advisor, providing academic or career advising, a resource for community groups or media)?		
4. Does the faculty member represent the College/Department on University committees? For example, University Senate, Tenure and Promotion, Faculty Grievance, Academic Honesty, Library, etc.		
5. Is the faculty member eligible for, and participate in, faculty development activities (e.g., attendance at professional meetings or workshops, sabbatical leave, training & development courses)?		

If the majority of your answers were “YES”, the faculty member should be classified as a **participating** faculty member. A *supporting* faculty member generally does not participate in the intellectual or operational life of the college beyond the direct performance of teaching responsibilities. Generally, a *supporting* faculty member does not serve on faculty committees, does not have a deliberative role in deciding faculty issues, nor is the faculty member assigned responsibilities beyond direct teaching duties (i.e., classroom and office hours). *Supporting* faculty members are generally employed for one term or academic year (non-tenure track) with no promise or guarantee of continued employment beyond the current term of employment.

The **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools** (Sacs) requires faculty teaching undergraduate courses to possess a doctor's or master's degree with a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours in the assigned teaching concentration area. *Graduate teaching assistants* must have either a master's degree in the teaching discipline or 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline; operate under the direct supervision of a faculty member experienced in the teaching discipline; participate in regular in-service training; and undergo planned periodic evaluations. Faculty teaching graduate or post-undergraduate courses must possess an earned doctorate (or terminal degree) in the teaching discipline or a related discipline.