The University of Mississippi

Definition of Faculty Ranks

Regular Faculty

The Regular Faculty consists of tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, persons in acting faculty positions, and instructors who have been given a guarantee of continuing employment.

Support Faculty

Support Faculty are employed for a limited range of duties. They have no university governance or voting rights. They are not progressing toward tenure. They are to assume that their employment ceases at the end of the term of the contract in effect unless they are offered a new contract or unless they are considered to be permanent employees of the University.

1. Instructor. Persons with the rank of instructor shall be hired for teaching duties but shall not be tenure track and shall be employed on one-year contracts, the contracts being renewable at the discretion of the University. Instructors who have not been given a guarantee of continuing employment are members of the Support Faculty.

2. Adjunct. The title Adjunct is used for persons whose primary responsibilities lie outside the University. The prefix may be used before the instructional titles Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. Adjunct faculty members are members of the Support Faculty. Usually adjunct faculty members derive their principal income from sources outside the University though they may be paid for teaching University classes on a part-time basis. Adjunct faculty members cannot attain tenure; in the event that an adjunct faculty member is appointed to a tenure-track position, the time a person serves while an adjunct faculty member shall not count toward the probationary time toward tenure. Persons holding the title Adjunct are eligible to exercise the responsibilities of Associate Graduate Faculty.

3. Visiting. This title is used for professorial faculty from other universities and for qualified professionals who can contribute to the intellectual life of the University through teaching or research. Visiting faculty members have temporary appointments and are members of the Support Faculty. Persons holding the title Visiting are eligible to exercise the responsibilities of Associate Graduate Faculty.

4. Clinical. The prefix Clinical may precede the ranks Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. Persons holding this rank are members of the Support Faculty. Ordinarily faculty members with clinical appointments serve on a part-time basis and are unsalaried. Persons with this rank are in nontenure track positions.

5. Lecturer. Persons with special experience or professional qualifications may be employed at the rank of Lecturer. Lecturers are members of the Support Faculty; they are not eligible for tenure or promotion.
6. **Artist-in-Residence.** This title is used for persons whose professional artistic accomplishments qualify them for appointments to departments in fine and performing arts. Persons holding only this faculty title are members of the Support Faculty and are not eligible for tenure or promotion.

7. **Writer-in-Residence.** This title is used for persons whose literary accomplishments qualify them for appointment to an academic department. Persons holding only this faculty title are members of the Support Faculty and are not eligible for tenure or promotion.

**Research Faculty**

The prefix Research may be used with the faculty titles Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor and as part of the title for persons with the faculty rank Research Associate. This title is used for faculty members whose principal assignments are to conduct research. Research faculty members may not be awarded tenure, but they (with the exception of Research Associates) may be considered for promotion (see section on "Promotions (Academic)"). While in some cases renewal of appointment is subject to availability of research funds, research faculty members have the expectation of continuing employment unless notified otherwise at the time of their appointment. Persons holding the title Visiting are eligible to exercise the responsibilities of Associate Graduate Faculty.

**Term Faculty**

Term faculty are employed for a limited period of time, normally not to exceed one year and are supported on designated and restricted funds. Term faculty are not eligible for tenure, their appointments are dependent upon the availability of designated or restricted funds, and they may be terminated if these funds are reduced or discontinued.

**Emeritus Faculty**

This title will be conferred automatically upon any faculty member of professorial rank who elects to retire after ten years of faculty service to the University and who meets the criteria for retirement under the Public Employees' Retirement System. Also, retirement and emeritus status may be recommended at the discretion of the department chair and dean for those faculty members who have rendered meritorious service.