

**Graduate Faculty Status and Graduate Teaching Status in the Department of  
Sociology  
May, 2009**

Graduate Faculty Status [GFS] applies to faculty in tenured or tenure-track ranks. It authorizes them to teach all graduate-level courses, sit on all graduate-level committees, and chair all graduate-student dissertation committees.

Graduate Teaching Status [GTS] applies to faculty in non-tenure track ranks. It authorizes them to teach all graduate-level courses. GTS is further comprised of two categories: co-Masters Directive Status (co-MDS) and co-Doctoral Directive Status (co-DDS), which must be conferred additionally in order for GTS faculty to sit on or chair graduate-level committees, as described below.

**Graduate Faculty Status**

University criteria specify that members of the Graduate Faculty “are expected to actively engage in graduate education through teaching, mentoring and research supervision. They should show evidence of research-based scholarship resulting in peer-reviewed publications.”

Upon arrival, tenured and tenure-track faculty who have been granted GFS upon hire are permitted to teach all graduate classes.

GFS Nomination criteria: A Ph.D. in Sociology and expertise in the teaching area are required.

GFS Limitations/Restrictions: To supervise Masters and Ph.D. committees, Graduate Faculty must meet the following additional Sociology Department criteria:

(1) Specific level of scholarly research activity: Must have published a book or refereed article in the past five years.

(2) Experience in directing graduate students: Permission to supervise a Masters’ level committee is granted upon receipt of approval for GFS, and permission to supervise a dissertation is contingent on having served on a completed dissertation committee.

Faculty holding GFS are expected to actively engage in graduate education through teaching, mentoring, and research supervision. They should show evidence of research-based scholarship and/or creative work resulting in peer-reviewed publications or equivalent work. If five years pass without evidence of scholarly productivity (chapter, refereed article or book), a member of the faculty holding GFS may be denied the right to participate in graduate education activities in the department, to direct Ph.D. or MS dissertations and theses, to serve on graduate student committees, or to teach graduate courses.

### Dissertation Committee Composition

A minimum of four members (three with GFS status in Sociology and one with tenure and GFS from outside Sociology) are required for a Dissertation Committee.

### **Graduate Teaching Status**

In order to qualify for GTS, nontenure-track faculty must hold a Ph.D. or have proven expertise in the teaching area. Those who meet this requirement may be nominated for GTS and upon GTS appointment may teach graduate-level courses. Instructors who are not regular members of the FSU faculty may be awarded GTS on a temporary basis with the approval of the Dean of the College of Social Science and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Nontenure-track faculty with a Ph.D. in Sociology and who hold GTS may be nominated for Co-Master's Directive Status (CMDS), which allows them to serve as a member of a Master's Degree committee and to co-direct (with a GFS faculty member) a Master's committee.

Nontenure-track faculty holding GTS and CMDS may be nominated for Co-Doctoral Directive Status (CDDS), which allows them to serve as a member on a doctoral committee and to co-direct (with a GFS faculty member) doctoral dissertations. To be appointed to CMDS, they must hold a Ph.D. in Sociology and have demonstrated the ability to conduct scholarly research by having published a book or a refereed article.

Exceptions to any of the policy items enumerated here may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Sociology Personnel Committee.