

**I. Definition of Faculty**

- A. The term "faculty" is limited to regular, full-time personnel who hold academic rank as professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor. It is limited to those persons whose appointments are for a complete academic or fiscal year. It is further limited to those whose regular assignments include instruction or academic support as their principal activity; i.e., the person's regular assignment in the area of instruction or academic support must be at least 50 percent of the total assigned duties.
- B. If not otherwise included within the above definition of "faculty," this term includes the chief academic officer and the president. It may also include assistants or associates for the above positions and persons previously designated as members of the faculty who are assigned to other positions in the College. All of these personnel must hold faculty rank.
- C. Academic rank is an element of faculty status and will be limited to faculty with the above definition. Academic rank may be assigned only to faculty who meet the minimum rank criteria under Tennessee Board of Regents [Policy 5:02:02:30, Faculty Promotion at Community Colleges](#), and [Pellissippi State Policy 06:03:00, Faculty Promotion](#). Those policies will control any promotion in rank.
- D. The term "faculty" excludes those whose regular assignment is in any other area, e.g., student affairs, institutional support, operation and maintenance of the plant. It excludes adjunct faculty, who are defined as professional staff members of businesses, industries, and other agencies and organizations who are appointed on a part-time basis to carry out instruction.
- E. Faculty members shall not have family members or significant others enrolled in their class(es).
- F. Exceptions to this policy can be made upon recommendation by the president and approval by the Chancellor.

**II. Role of the Faculty**

Pellissippi State Community College is committed to full participation of its faculty in academic affairs. Pellissippi State Community College encourages and solicits faculty participation in the governance, development, and improvement of the College's educational process through its committees and Faculty Senate. Faculty are included in the decision making and policy implementation processes of the College.

Responsibility for implementation of the instructional program rests with the teaching faculty. Excellence in teaching stands foremost among the challenges and responsibilities of the College. Within this framework, the faculty have certain roles, as described below. .

**A. Teaching**

- 1. Teach in the area of competence according to college policy.
- 2. Apply theories and principles of learning to instruction.
- 3. Adapt instruction to the entry level knowledge and skills of students.
- 4. Recommend course and program changes to the academic department dean when appropriate.
- 5. Develop syllabi which meet college requirements and student needs. Make syllabi available on the first day of classes.
- 6. Use alternative instructional strategies where appropriate

7. Inform students of special instructional resources located in the Educational Resources Center and/or the Academic Support Center.
8. Orient students to objectives and procedures before beginning instruction.
9. Establish and communicate clearly defined grading procedures and standards.
10. Use evaluations to revise and update content, objectives, and instructional strategies.
11. Give examinations and other types of evaluations necessary to determine student level of performance and understanding.
12. Keep students aware of their progress in the course.
13. Perform record-keeping responsibilities related to teaching and advising.
14. Respond in a timely fashion to all reasonable deadlines.
15. Make reasonable classroom accommodations, course adjustments and academic program modifications as necessary to provide opportunity for qualified students with disabilities who present current accommodation plans to effectively participate in the educational process pursuant to Mississippi State Policies 03:11:01 Academic Standards and 04:07:00 Disability Services.

B. Advising

1. Be available to students by maintaining office hours which are reasonably convenient.
2. Post and adhere to required office hours.
3. Be knowledgeable of the college policies, procedures, and assistance available to students.
4. Assist advisees with the selection and scheduling of classes.
5. Monitor the academic progress of advisees.
6. Hold conferences with students as needed.

C. Faculty Service

1. Serve on committees and task forces as appointed by the president or academic department dean.
2. Use professional knowledge and skills to contribute to local and professional community activities whenever appropriate.
3. Attend faculty meetings as scheduled.
4. Contribute to the advancement of college goals through appropriate individual goals.

D. Professional Development (Teaching and Discipline)

Participate in professional development related to pedagogy and to the faculty member's discipline.

- E. Other objectives to be agreed upon by faculty members and immediate supervisors in the development of personal, departmental, and divisional objectives

F. Minimum Faculty Qualifications

1. All full-time and part-time faculty teaching courses at the associate's degree level in the areas of humanities, fine arts, natural sciences, social and behavioral sciences, mathematics, and business administration (not including courses that are part of career/technical programs) must have completed at least 18 graduate semester hours in their teaching field and hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited college/university.
2. All full-time and part-time faculty teaching professional, career, and technical courses that are components of associate of applied science degree programs not usually resulting in college transfer must have at the minimum an associate's degree in their

teaching field or closely related field from a regionally accredited college/university and three years' work experience in the field.

3. Pellissippi State Community College recognizes that the ability to communicate effectively is an essential skill for all academic personnel to perform competently. To ensure that all faculty are proficient in oral and written English, the following requirements are to be used during the selection process to evaluate candidates:
  - a. ability to speak and write English clearly;
  - b. ability to understand written and spoken English; and
  - c. ability to communicate effectively in an academic environment (for example, previous successful employment in an academic institution).

No individual will be appointed to a teaching position or recommended for tenure in such a position on any campus or other instructional unit unless the chief academic officer certifies in writing to the president that such an individual can communicate effectively with students in the English language.

The foregoing criteria are to be used strictly as a measure of the candidate's ability to communicate effectively as an instructor and will not be used arbitrarily to disqualify applicants of certain nationalities.

### III. Nature of Appointments

- A. Faculty at Pellissippi State Community College will be employed pursuant to the types of appointments specified in Tennessee Board of Regents [Policy 5:02:07:00 Faculty Appointments at Community Colleges](#) and [Pellissippi State Policy 6:02:02 Faculty Appointments](#).
- B. Faculty on an academic year appointment will be on duty for not less than nine months, which will commence from the time designated by the president prior to the registration for the fall term of each year through the time designated by the president at the end of the spring term, and will be subject to call for duty during that period regardless of whether classes are in session.
- C. All faculty will be required to devote a minimum of 37.5 hours per week to the College as provided below:
  1. Faculty will be required to carry a full teaching load which will be 15 equated load hours per semester. Academic department deans will receive released time to compensate for their administrative duties performed as determined by the chief academic officer and the president. Program coordinators will receive released time from teaching to compensate for administrative duties performed as determined by the chief academic officer and the president. Adjustments may be made to teaching loads to compensate for low production of student credit hours.
  2. Every effort should be made to ensure that each faculty member teaches 30 load hours per academic year. When this is not possible, an underload or an overload will be carried forward to future academic years until the accumulated hours allow the faculty member to teach an additional course or to have one course reduced in a particular semester. The maximum overload or underload to be carried over will be less than three load hours except in cases where only four-hour courses are available. Each department will forward a report of overloads or underloads to the office of the chief academic officer in May of each academic year.
  3. Full-time faculty will schedule a minimum of five office hours per week. There will be at least one office hour each day, five days a week, and office hours are not to be scheduled for the same hour each day. The combination of class and office hours should not exceed nine hours for any given day.

4. In addition to the hours in (1) and (3), the full-time faculty member will be required to schedule campus hours sufficient to complete 30 hours. The additional 7.5 hours required by the College may be used at the faculty member's discretion.
5. By the fourteenth day of each semester, the full-time faculty member will submit a schedule to the academic department dean. In addition, the faculty member will be required to post a preliminary schedule by the first day of class for the term on the office door. The schedule should include classes taught with times and room numbers.
6. Faculty members will post a notice on their office door if away from the office during scheduled office hours. The department assistant will be notified if the faculty member is required to be away from campus during scheduled campus hours.
7. Full-time faculty teaching during a summer term or intersession will schedule two hours on campus for each equated load hour taught.
8. Each full-time faculty member will teach at least one evening course during the academic year based on departmental needs.
9. Exceptions to the foregoing procedures on developing a schedule will require prior approval of the chief academic officer.

#### D. Off-campus faculty

Faculty members whose teaching responsibilities are primarily off campus (web based teaching) are expected to follow the same general requirements established for on-campus faculty with the academic department dean, the program coordinator, and the faculty member determining campus hours, advising, committee assignments, and community involvement. The chief academic officer approves the academic plan for the off-campus faculty member before the beginning of each semester.

1. Off-campus faculty will schedule a minimum of five office hours per week. There will be at least one office hour each day, five days a week, and office hours are not to be scheduled for the same hour each day.
2. Every attempt should be made to provide off-campus faculty with online advisees.
3. Every attempt should be made to include off-campus faculty in committee work pertinent to faculty issues.

#### IV. Compensation for Administrative Responsibilities

Faculty members may be asked to assume temporary administrative responsibilities that will require the awarding of an administrative stipend in addition to the previously established salary. The stipend amount or any other understanding concerning compensation must be set out in a newly executed contract. The contract should (1) include a statement that the stipend is awarded as compensation until the additional administrative responsibilities end, or (2) otherwise address how compensation would be affected at the end of the administrative appointment.

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