

FACULTY QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Revised April 2013

The USF Center for Entrepreneurship is a nationally-ranked, multidisciplinary, campus-wide center focusing on entrepreneurial education, training, and research. By using innovative, interdisciplinary approaches, the center prepares students in the fields of business, engineering, health sciences, and sustainability to design, develop, and grow new ventures. The center also enhances undergraduate studies by offering minors to business, engineering, and non-business students, and supports undergraduate research in collaboration with the USF Honors College. Because the study of entrepreneurship draws on a number of business and business-related disciplines, academic preparation in a variety of fields, including marketing, management, strategy, policy, economics, information systems, finance, and law is appropriate.

Both SACS Standard 3.71 and USF Policy 10-115 address faculty qualifications for teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The SACS Commission guidelines "Faculty Credentials" notes that (1) faculty teaching baccalaureate courses are expected to hold a doctoral or master's degree in the discipline taught or a master's degree with a concentration in the discipline equivalent to 18 graduate semester hours and (2) faculty teaching graduate or post-baccalaureate courses are expected to hold a doctorate or other terminal degree in the field taught or a related field. USF policy 10-115 mirrors the SACS guidelines but further notes that "Exceptions may be made for individuals who do not meet the above qualifications but who are considered by the department to possess other demonstrated competencies and achievements that provide evidence to support effective teaching and student achievement."

The College of Business holds separate accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). AACSB Standard 15, which addresses faculty qualifications, requires that faculty meet criteria for classification as Scholarly Academic, Practice Academic, Scholarly Practitioner, or Instructional Practitioner with at least 40% of faculty meeting the criteria for Scholarly Academic (terminal degree in the field taught or equivalent and a record of basic, discipline-based research); 60% meeting the criteria for Scholarly Academic or Practice Academic (terminal degree in the field taught or equivalent and a record of substantive "linkages to practice"); and at least 90% meeting the criteria for one of the four categories.

Entrepreneurship Interpretation

Faculty who teach at the graduate level are expected to hold (1) a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree from an accredited institution in entrepreneurship or a related field, (2) a Ph.D. or equivalent in an unrelated field supplemented by additional academic preparation, or (3) a Ph.D. or equivalent in an unrelated field with a record of publication in peer-reviewed journals and other intellectual contributions or significant experience in entrepreneurship or the related field taught.

Faculty who (1) hold a master's degree with a major in entrepreneurship or related discipline, as described above, or (2) 18 graduate semester hours in the discipline with a master's degree in any field may teach at the undergraduate level. Significant experience in a related field may substitute for all or part of the 18 hours. In exceptional cases, significant entrepreneurial experience in the profit or not-for-profit sector may substitute for the academic preparation in (1) or (2) above.

Qualifications expected for adjunct faculty are the same as those for full time faculty; however, in exceptional cases, significant entrepreneurial experience (a management/executive position characterized by substantial authority and responsibility) in the profit or not-for-profit sector may substitute for the academic preparation in (1) or (2) above.

With the exception noted above, faculty will meet AACSB criteria for classification as Scholarly Academic, Practice Academic, Scholarly Practitioner, or Instructional Practitioner with at least 40% of faculty meeting the criteria for Scholarly Academic (terminal degree in the field taught or equivalent and a record of basic, discipline-based research); 60% meeting the criteria for Scholarly Academic or Practice Academic (terminal degree in the field taught or equivalent and a record of substantive "linkages to practice"); and at least 90% meeting the criteria for one of the four categories.

Doctoral students who are instructors of record must hold a master's degrees in entrepreneurship or a related discipline, as noted above, or have completed 18 graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline; doctoral students will be directly supervised by faculty members holding appropriate qualifications in the discipline, will receive regular mentoring and coaching, and will receive planned and periodic evaluations.