

Department of Finance Faculty Qualification/Credentials (Revised Fall 2019)

Both SACS Standard 6.2a 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 Muma 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.

Department of Finance Interpretation Full-time Faculty

The discipline of Finance including Personal Financial Planning draws on concepts and theories from a large number of areas including other business disciplines such as accounting, data and business analytics, insurance, marketing, management, and real estate as well as non-business disciplines such as economics, law, mathematics, psychology, and public policy.

This policy applies to all tenure track faculty teaching courses within the area of Finance.

Graduate Curriculum: Faculty must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree from an accredited institution in finance, personal financial planning, or the related fields cited earlier. Only faculty with terminal degrees will teach graduate courses at the MBA, Master’s, or Ph.D. level.

Undergraduate Curriculum: Faculty must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree from an accredited institution in the discipline. If the faculty member does not have a Ph.D. or equivalent, they may teach undergraduate courses if they have met one of the following criteria: 1) hold a masters’ degree with a major in the discipline from an accredited institution, or 2) hold a master’s degree and have 18 graduate semester hours in the discipline or the related fields cited earlier. In exceptional cases, significant experience in the field (a management/executive position characterized by substantial authority and responsibility) in the profit or not-for-profit sector may substitute for the academic preparation.

Associate Faculty and Doctoral Students

This policy applies to all non-tenure track faculty, adjuncts, lecturers and doctoral students teaching courses within the area of finance who are not permanently employed by the university.

Graduate Curriculum: Faculty must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree from an accredited institution in finance, personal financial planning, or the related fields cited earlier. Only faculty with terminal degrees will teach graduate courses at the Ph.D. level. Finance Ph.D. students will only be allowed to teach at the master's level after they have been admitted to candidacy in the Ph.D. program.

Undergraduate Curriculum: Faculty must hold a Ph.D., MBA, or Master's degree from an accredited institution in finance, personal financial planning, or the related fields cited earlier. If the faculty member does not have a Ph.D. or equivalent, they may teach undergraduate courses if they have met one of the following criteria: 1) hold a master's degree with a major in the discipline from an accredited institution, or 2) hold a master's degree and have 18 graduate semester hours in the discipline or the related fields cited earlier. Doctoral students will only be allowed to teach at the undergraduate level after completion of at least one year of full-time study at the Ph.D. level. In exceptional cases, significant experience in the field (a management/executive position characterized by substantial authority and responsibility) in the profit or not-for-profit sector may substitute for the academic preparation. A person who does not possess these qualifications can still be considered for an adjunct position in the undergraduate program if he or she possesses professional certifications, such as a CFA, CFP, or other appropriate licenses or charters, and has considerable experience in the subject area that the course covers.

Distance Learning Programs/Activities

All faculty teaching distance learning courses will be subject to the same criteria as stated for that of full-time or associate faculty and doctoral students.