



## 5.02.01.00 Definition of Faculty

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#### Policy/Guideline Area

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Personnel Policies

#### Applicable Divisions

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TCATs, Community Colleges

#### Purpose

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To provide a definition of the term "faculty" for policies and guidelines which do not otherwise define that term. Colleges may further develop this definition as needed for matters neither covered by nor in conflict with Board policies, such as faculty meeting attendance, voting on recommendations of campus policies and procedures, and representation on campus committees.

#### Policy/Guideline

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##### I. Faculty Definition

A. The term "faculty" shall be limited to individuals, whether full-time or part-time, whose regular assigned duties include providing student instruction in for-credit classes at least fifty percent (50%) of the time.

1. At community colleges, faculty appointments include, but are not limited to, those with temporary, term, tenure-track, and tenure appointments in accordance with [5.02.07.00 Faculty Appointments at Community Colleges](#).

2. At TCATs, faculty appointments include, but are not limited to, associate instructors, instructors, senior instructors, master instructors, and master instructor II. See [5.02.02.10 Faculty Rank and Promotion at Technical Colleges](#).

3. "Adjunct faculty" are individuals appointed on a part-time basis to carry out instructional functions and are included within the definition of "faculty" if they meet the other criteria.
- B. Individuals do not lose faculty status due to temporary assignments with job duties that include teaching for-credit classes less than 50% of the time.
  - C. The term "faculty" does not include individuals who teach non-credit classes, including, but limited to workforce development classes, unless at least 50% of their regular duties include teaching for-credit classes.
  - D. The term "faculty" shall not include those who serve primarily as administrators or in other staff positions. Provided, however, unless the college and faculty member agree otherwise, a faculty member who moves into an administrative position retains the faculty appointment even while not serving as a member of the faculty, and if tenured, retains tenure in the faculty position.
  - E. To comply with accreditation or special programmatic requirements, the chief academic officer may define faculty more broadly.
  - F. Exceptions to this policy can be made upon recommendation by a president and approval by the chancellor.

## **Sources**

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### **Authority**

T.C.A. § 49-8-203

### **History**

TBR Meetings, March 3, 1978; September 30, 1983; Board Meeting June 20, 2014; Board approved revisions June 12, 2026 (effective July 1, 2026).

## **Related Policies**

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[5.02.02.10 Faculty Rank & Promotion at Technical Colleges](#)

[5.02.02.30 Faculty Promotion at Community Colleges](#)