



**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Faculty Credentials Guidelines for Deans and Department Heads**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS** • <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/>

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Valdosta State University employs highly qualified faculty to teach our students. VSU ascribes to the SACS Commission on Colleges’ recommended Guidelines for Faculty Credentials (summarized in the below table) which states: “The institution employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish the mission and goals of the institution. When determining acceptable qualifications of its faculty, an institution gives primary consideration to the highest earned degree in the discipline. The institution also considers competence, effectiveness, and capacity, including, as appropriate, undergraduate and graduate degrees, related work experiences in the field, professional licensure and certifications, honors and awards, continuous documented excellence in teaching, or other demonstrated competencies and achievements that contribute to effective teaching and student learning outcomes. For all cases, the institution is responsible for justifying and documenting the qualifications of its faculty.”

Contact the SACSCOC Accreditation Liaison, Dr. Michael Black ([mblack \[at\] valdosta.edu](mailto:mblack@valdosta.edu)) with questions or to seek recommendations about specific circumstances prior to assigning the instructor to a course.

<b>An instructor with a</b>	<b>is academically credentialed to teach in the discipline</b>
doctoral degree in the teaching discipline	bachelor, master’s, specialist, and doctoral level courses
doctoral degree <u>not</u> in the teaching discipline; master’s degree in the teaching discipline which is the terminal degree for that discipline (i.e., MFA)	bachelor and master’s level courses
doctoral degree <u>not</u> in the teaching discipline; master’s degree in the teaching discipline but <u>not</u> the terminal degree for that discipline (i.e., MS, MA, MEd)	1000 and 2000 level courses; may be able to teach 3000 and 4000 level courses but requires a justification for an exception approved by a Dean and SACSCOC Liaison
education specialist degree in the teaching discipline	bachelor level courses
master’s degree in the teaching discipline which is the terminal degree for that discipline (i.e., MFA)	bachelor and master’s level courses
master’s degree in the teaching discipline but <u>not</u> the terminal degree for that discipline (i.e., MA, MS, MEd)	1000 and 2000 level courses; may be able to teach 3000 and 4000 level courses but requires a justification for an exception approved by a Dean and SACSCOC Liaison
master’s degree <u>not</u> in the teaching discipline but has 18+ graduate semester hours in the teaching discipline	1000 and 2000 level courses
bachelor’s degree but working as a Graduate Teaching Assistant while pursuing a master’s degree	1000 level courses with direct supervision by experienced faculty member, regular training, and planned and periodic evaluations
bachelor’s degree with substantial work and professional experience and credentials in the teaching discipline <i>[this is extremely rare]</i>	1000 level courses only on an emergency basis with direct supervision by experienced faculty member and a justification for an exception approved by a Dean and SACSCOC Liaison

Note: Full-time staff members cannot teach for the academic department which regularly employs them.

Revised June 18, 2019.