

AC10 – Distinguished Professorships

Frequently Asked Questions

When does the appointment period begin for a newly appointed Distinguished Professor?

- Appointments begin on January 1.

If awarded a Distinguished Professorship title, how long may I carry the title?

- Per AC10, appointments as Distinguished Professor will be made for a period of five (5) years.

Can my Distinguished Professor appointment be renewed following the five (5) year term?

- Yes; per AC10, renewal of the appointment is dependent upon the Distinguished Professor continuing the same high level of performance evident at the time of initial appointment. The title of Distinguished Professor may be carried until resignation or retirement from the University, subject to the college/campus performance review process at 5-year intervals, or until such time as the holder may be appointed to an endowed faculty position or to a University-level professorship.

Can I maintain another named or endowed title once I have been awarded a Distinguished Professor appointment?

- No; per AC10, those appointed as Distinguished Professor must not currently hold an endowed chair, professorship, or faculty fellowship.

If an awarded emeritus status upon retirement from the University, may I continue to use the Distinguished Professor title?

- Yes; per AC10, A Distinguished Professor may retire from the University with emeritus status, as "Distinguished Professor, Emeritus."

I would like to nominate a colleague for a Distinguished Professorship; what is the nomination process?

- Faculty members, departments, or programs may nominate a candidate(s) for a Distinguished Professorship to the dean of the academic college in which the nominee is appointed. Nominations should normally be accompanied by three internal letters of support including one from the nominee's department head.

I am nominating a colleague for a Distinguished Professorship and AC10 indicates that three internal letters of support should be included with the nomination. Besides the department head, who should the internal letters of support be from?

- Per AC10, three internal letters of support need to be included in the nomination packet. One of those letters must be from the nominee's department head/school director and the other letters can be from other Distinguished Professors in the unit (college or campus), an Associate Dean in the unit, other department heads from the college or campus, or other collaborators.

Can I submit external letters as part of a nomination packet for a Distinguished Professor candidate?

- Yes, recent letters submitted for other purposes, including external letters of evaluation, may be submitted if available. These letters should be from the last twelve months but preferably from the last 6 months.

I have access to an endowment but do not hold a named appointment. am I eligible for a Distinguished Professorship?

- Yes, having access to an endowment is different than holding a named appointment. Policy prohibits faculty from holding multiple named appointments simultaneously.

Both academic administrators (department heads, associate deans, etc.) (AC14) and Distinguished Professors (AC10) are reviewed every five years. If an administrator who also holds a Distinguished Professorship is scheduled to have both reviews in the same year, can the unit "pause" one review or stagger the reviews so that both do not take place in the same year?

- Colleges/campuses should adhere to the standard practices they have developed with regard to how named chairs/professorships or Distinguished Professorships are evaluated per AC10. The policy allows colleges/campuses to determine their own process; some use the five-year AC14 review to conduct Distinguished Professor evaluations. The college/campus may wish to consider adding language to its existing process to specifically address any changes to process that might occur when a named professor takes on an administrator role or vice versa.