



PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE

Approval Guidelines

Per AC21, Definition of Academic Ranks, “the professor of practice title is limited to those individuals who are **non-tenure track** faculty who may not have had the traditional academic background that is typical of faculty as they move through the professorial ranks. The title of professor of practice should be reserved for persons who have accumulated a decade or more of high level and leadership experience in the private or public sectors outside the academy that would provide a unique background and wealth of knowledge that is of particular value as it is shared with the University's students and other faculty. Prior to an offer being extended to an individual being considered for the Professor of Practice title, the appropriate dean or academic administrator shall consult with, and receive approval from, the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.”

Individuals hired with this title into a teaching role will ideally provide students with a deeper understanding of the practical application in a particular field of study. Additionally, they will help promote the integration of academic scholarship with the practical experience of professionals in a given field. They may also serve as liaisons between industry or government and the University in identifying teaching and research opportunities that support the public interest and societal needs, as well as Penn State programs and initiatives.

Qualifications

Candidates must have a rich and extensive base of experience (at least ten years) in fields and disciplines relating to the school or college of appointment at Penn State or in emergent areas of teaching and research.

Candidates must be recognized nationally and/or internationally for their significant contributions to their field.

Their employment must demonstrably benefit the programs of the school or college of appointment at Penn State.

Please note that a terminal degree is not required.

Rank and Title

Reflecting the stature of the individuals under consideration for this position, these individuals will carry the title Professor of Practice. This title is only available to those who are hired into the position full time; it is not available to part-time employees or to be used as an “honorary” title for non-employees.

Procedural Guidelines

Effective April 1, 2018; updated February 25, 2020, September 21, 2021



PennState
Faculty Affairs

A request for Professor of Practice should be submitted for review and approval by the dean/chancellor to the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at vpfa@psu.edu. Below please find a list of required materials that must accompany the request.

- (1) Statement of support that includes the proposed appointment with duties and responsibilities;
- (2) the candidate's vitae/resume; and
- (3) two external letters of review (Penn State emeritus faculty are NOT eligible to serve as external reviewers).

Upon review and approval of the request by the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, an email approval notification will be sent to the unit's dean or chancellor and HRSP to initiate the approved request.