

North Dakota State University

Policy Manual

SECTION 320

FACULTY OBLIGATIONS AND TIME REQUIREMENTS

SOURCE: NDSU President

1. Basic Obligations

Regular faculty appointments carry those responsibilities and privileges traditionally identified with academic positions. While a minimum of specific restrictions are imposed on the activities of a faculty member, they are under obligation to render to the University the most effective service of which they are capable. Moreover, they are expected to increase their depth and range of competency with increased length of service. All members of the faculty have a responsibility to develop their professional proficiency.

Faculty member obligations fall into these four broad areas: 1) academic instruction, 2) research and other scholarly activities, 3) administrative and related duties, and 4) professional service to communities. Primary responsibilities for most appointees include the functions of teaching and research.

These broad statements of faculty responsibility mean that faculty members are accountable to the University during the term of their appointment (including summer school appointments) for all necessary or appropriate teaching, research, administrative, and service obligations. More specifically, this means that faculty members are obligated to meet all their scheduled classes, to schedule and be available for a reasonable amount of consultation hours in their office, and to attend scheduled meetings that are related to their professional obligations.

2. Office Hours

Faculty members are considered professional personnel responsible for accomplishing the tasks for which they are employed. Faculty members are responsible for making time available for student conferences and are expected to post a listing of office hours.

3. Annual Leave

While nine-month faculty members thus have considerable flexibility in scheduling and fulfilling these professional obligations, they should not regard as automatic vacations all those periods when University classes are in recess. It should be clearly understood that there is no formal **annual leave** policy established for faculty whose regular term of employment is less than 12 months either by the State Board of Higher Education or by the University, other than the obvious fact that all faculty members are entitled to take the holidays defined by the State of North Dakota for state institutions. This should not be interpreted to mean that nine-month faculty members are obligated to work from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on all other days of the academic year, just as it would be inappropriate to assume that faculty members are excused from all academic responsibilities during the breaks provided for students. Instead, the guiding principle should be the more flexible requirement of professional obligation and accountability referred to above.

4. Sick Leave

This same philosophy prevails at NDSU with regard to sick leave for faculty whose regular term of appointment is less than 12 months. Although there is no formal sick leave policy or provision for such faculty, the understanding is that they have the opportunity to reschedule their commitments or make appropriate voluntary arrangements with their colleagues during times when sickness makes it impossible or unwise for them to meet their professional obligations. This does not guarantee any certain amount of paid sick leave hours or days to faculty members whose regular term of appointment is less than 12 months, but the flexibility it provides seems to meet the needs of most faculty members. Where extended illness or disability is involved, however, the amount of such informal sick leave shall be limited to a maximum of two weeks for each year of academic service to NDSU, unless an exception is approved by the Provost. In any event, the University's TIAA-CREF disability insurance provides salary benefits after six months of disability.

5. Childbearing Leave

Academic appointees (tenured and tenure-track faculty, professors of practice, and senior lecturers) with less than twelve-month appointments who give birth are eligible for childbearing leave during the period of medical disability. This is a temporary leave from all duties without reduction in pay during the time the faculty member is temporarily disabled because of pregnancy and childbirth. Childbearing leave begins on the actual delivery date and ends six weeks after (including university breaks), although individual circumstances may require extending this period. Any extension beyond six weeks (before and after delivery) shall require medical certification from the attending physician or midwife and is approved by the Provost. Unpaid leave that extends beyond the period of medical disability is available through FMLA. Eligibility for childbearing leave begins upon hiring.

6. Modified Duties

- 6.1. Who is eligible: An academic appointee (tenured and tenure-track faculty, professors of practice, and senior lecturers) who 1) becomes a parent through childbirth, adoption, or foster placement of a child (as defined by the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA); 2) has a health condition that makes them unable to perform their regular duties but does not necessitate a reduction in workload; or 3) who will be caring for a child, spouse/partner or parent who has a serious health condition (as defined by FMLA). Additional modifications for longer-term conditions may be made in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and NDSU Policy 100.1.
- 6.2. Definition: "Modified duties" means a change to duties and goals without reduction of salary for a limited period of time. A person taking "modified duties" will still be at a 100% workload and 100% salary; however the nature of the responsibilities for this time period will be adjusted. Modified duties will include a revision of workload for up to the equivalent of a semester (e.g., release from or reassignment of teaching courses, committee assignments, advising, or alteration of research duties). When a period of modified duties immediately follows childbearing leave, the modified duties may be extended to the end of a semester to accommodate teaching schedules as necessary. Modified duties must conclude within 12 months of a birth or adoption.
- 6.3. Process: Modified duties, goals, and duration will be negotiated by the individual requesting modified duties with the department chair/head and approved by the dean. If agreement

cannot be reached between the faculty member, the department chair/head, and the dean, the negotiation will advance to the Provost.

- 6.4. Performance evaluation: Faculty members who use the modification of duties and goals must still submit an annual report when it is due in their department. The time period in which duties were modified, as well as the specific modifications in place, must be included in the annual report. The report must also include the agreed upon goals and a statement about how those goals were accomplished, but must not disclose confidential medical information. Those reviewing and evaluating the document should take this into account and adjust expectations accordingly. Acceptance of modified duties does not change the candidate's responsibility for meeting the department's PTE standards by the end of the probationary period, whether that period has been extended or not. A period of modified duties is not a necessary condition for an extension of the tenure probationary period. A period of modified duties also does not require that the individual extend the tenure probationary period.

HISTORY:

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