

College of Arts and Sciences
Policy for Senior Lecturer
Last revised: Fall 2025

These policies are based on the Faculty Manual and the Senior Lecturer's report adopted by the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences on Feb. 17, 2004; this document has been amended on February 26, 2008, December 1, 2018, and November 17, 2021, with clarificatory revisions made in October 2025. Departments wishing to establish Senior Lectureships will develop and present the Dean's Office with specific policies and procedures consistent with them.

Eligibility: Full-time Lecturers may apply for promotion, normally to take effect no sooner than their sixth year of service. On occasion, in light of an individual's relevant experience, an initial appointment may be made at the rank of Senior Lecturer or a promotion may be sought prior to a fifth year in rank. A terminal degree in the field is required for eligibility to apply for promotion.

Appointments: Normally, Senior Lecturer (re)appointments are for a period of three to five years, depending on the teaching needs of the department. Upon promotion to Senior Lecturer, a special merit raise, commensurate with that given to members of the regular faculty at times of promotion, will be given. In all cases, promotions to Senior Lecturer must take into account long-term departmental teaching needs.

Evaluative Procedures: Promotion and retention are based primarily on excellence in teaching. Promotion to Senior Lecturer is based on a proven record of teaching excellence. This high level of teaching, but not necessarily extraordinary achievement, is the standard for promotion or (re)appointment. Evaluation of teaching will be based on peer review and student evaluations. A successful promotion will ordinarily require student teaching evaluation scores at or above the departmental mean. A minimum of two (2) teaching observations and peer reviews in the preceding 5 years is required with at least one being from the past 12 months. Outside reviewers are not required. Other professional activities will also be taken into consideration, including, but not limited to, service at the department, College, and/or University level. Departments must identify faculty members available to serve as mentors for Lecturers to assist in their professional development and path towards possible promotion; Senior Lecturers may serve in this role.

Promotion: The tenured and tenure-track faculty of the department will vote on promotions to Senior Lecturer, and those holding Senior Lecturer appointments may vote if permitted by departmental practice or policy. Wherever possible, at least one Senior Lecturer in the department should participate in the evaluation committee for promotion. The Chair will forward the vote, as well as faculty and chair recommendations, to the Dean, who will make the final decision on the appointment to Senior Lecturer. When the decision is negative, the chair will report to the candidate the reasons for the decision and provide feedback on areas for improvement.

Renewal of Term as Senior Lecturer

The position of Senior Lecturer is based on a proven record of teaching excellence, which is also the standard for the renewal of the term of the appointment. Upon the approach of the end of the term of appointment to Senior Lecturer, the Chair may recommend to the Dean renewal of the appointment for up to five years. The Dean will make the final decision on the new term of appointment.

The Chair shall confer with the tenured and tenure-track faculty of the department regarding the reappointment of any senior lecturer; those holding Senior Lecturer appointments may be allowed to vote depending upon the relevant policy of the department. A minimum of two (2) teaching observations and peer reviews are required during the current renewal period. The Chair will forward the vote, as well as faculty and chair recommendations, to the Dean, who will make the final decision on the new term of appointment. When the decision is negative, the chair will report to the candidate the reasons for the decision and provide feedback on areas for improvement.

Appointments that have currently continued past their fifth year without renewal will be renewed by the Dean in accord with the policy as stated above, retroactive to the date of their expiration.

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