

Mason Gross School of the Arts

Professional Practice Track: Policies and Procedures for Appointment, Evaluation, and Promotion

This document is a school-specific supplement to the university-wide policies governing appointment, reappointment, and promotion of faculty on the Professional Practice Track. The university-wide documents are available at <https://laborrelations.rutgers.edu/faculty/non-tenure-track-faculty-non-libraries>.

General Criteria

Faculty members with appointments on the Professional Practice track in Mason Gross School of the Arts are expected to have professional experience in their chosen field of professional practice which enables them to bring to their work both a professional perspective and a knowledge of the contexts in which graduates may be employed. Professional Practice faculty may be engaged in teaching classes, developing and managing applied learning opportunities such as field experience or internships, administration of academic programs, advising, and all other aspects of teaching.

Faculty members in these positions are assigned service responsibilities that normally support teaching and student development and/or the department, the university, or the profession. Research and/or creative activity may or may not be required. Faculty may be expected to be engaged in recruitment of students and may be required to remain active in their field of practice. These positions are reserved for individuals who are effective teachers and whose work in professional practice is recognized by peers as making a significant contribution to the field.

Faculty members on the Professional Practice track enjoy the same rights, privileges, salary increases, and fringe benefits as full-time faculty on tenure lines, with the exception that they may not vote on the reappointment, tenure, and promotion of tenured and tenure-track faculty. Professional Practice faculty members are eligible for promotion to the ranks of associate professor, full professor, and distinguished professor. University criteria for NTT faculty for appointment, reappointment and promotion can be found at: <https://policies.rutgers.edu/view-policies/human-resources-hr-%E2%80%9393-section-60#5> (Policy 60.5.14). Mason Gross School of the Arts has its own criteria, available at <https://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Criteria-for-Professional-Practice-Faculty-Dec-2014.pdf> (housed on the school's Faculty/Staff Resources webpage, <https://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/resources/faculty-staff/>).

Appointment

Searches are generally conducted for full-time positions. Prior to initiating a search, the dean and department chair/director will meet to discuss the assignment of new or open faculty lines. Then, subject to the dean's approval, the chair/director will appoint a search committee of four or five faculty members from the department. Recommendations for a hire are made to the dean, who makes the final decision on the appointment.

Ranks and Appointment Terms

Professional Practice faculty may be appointed to one of four ranks: Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, Associate Professor of Professional Practice, Professor of Professional Practice, or Distinguished Professor of Professional Practice. Most new appointments to Mason Gross Professional Practice lines will begin at the assistant professor rank.

Appointment Terms will be as follows:

Assistant Professors of Professional Practice at Mason Gross will receive an initial contract term of three years. Their reappointment evaluation will take place at least 12 months prior to the expiration of their contract. If that evaluation is successful, they will be reappointed for a second three-year term. Following two three-year contracts, Professional Practice faculty will normally be appointed to a five-year term. Professional Practice titles can be reappointed at the same rank for more than two terms. Consistent with the collective negotiations agreement between Rutgers University and the AAUP-AFT for the term July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2026, “all appointments after the fourth appointment . . . shall be presumptively renewable . . . regardless of rank.” Guidelines for promotion to higher ranks are outlined below.

Evaluation and Reappointment

NTT evaluations at Mason Gross must comply with university policy as outlined in the document “Appointments, Reappointments, and/or Promotions of Non-Tenure Track Faculty,” downloadable from <https://laborrelations.rutgers.edu/faculty/non-tenure-track-faculty-non-libraries>. As stipulated there,

1. During the term of a two-year appointment, NTT faculty shall be evaluated at least once.
2. During the term of a three-, four-, or five-year appointment, NTT faculty shall be evaluated at least twice.
3. During the term of a six-year appointment or greater, NTT faculty shall be evaluated at least three times.

Normally, Mason Gross will follow the evaluation schedule outlined below, though there may be exceptions to this schedule based on special circumstances. **The evaluation in the penultimate year of the contract is the reappointment review. The reappointment evaluation requires use of the university’s “Short Form” and adherence to all the policies and procedures stipulated there.** Other evaluations are mid-appointment evaluations designed to provide feedback to the NTT faculty member about their work. Mid-appointment evaluations should use Mason Gross’s Mid-Appointment Evaluation Form for NTT Faculty, available at <https://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/MGSA-NTT-Faculty-Mid-Appointment-Evaluation-Form-final.pdf> (housed on the school’s Faculty/Staff Resources webpage, <https://www.masongross.rutgers.edu/resources/faculty-staff/>). (Download the PDF form for full functionality).

Duration of contract	Normal evaluation schedule
1 year	No evaluation
2 years	Spring of Year 1
3 years	Spring of Years 1 & 2
4 years	Spring of Years 1 & 3
5 years	Spring of Years 2 & 4
6 years	Spring of Years 1, 3, & 5
7 years	Spring of Years 2, 4, & 6
8 years	Spring of Years 2, 4, & 7

For mid-appointment evaluations, the department chair/director will send Mason Gross's Mid-Appointment Evaluation Form 30 days in advance of its due date. The Mid-Appointment Evaluation Form allows the faculty member the option of submitting samples of their work and other materials.

For reappointment evaluations, the department chair/director will give NTT faculty members 30 days' notice of an upcoming evaluation and ask that they submit a dossier of relevant materials. The Short Form enumerates the minimum materials to be included, and the chair/director may ask for additional materials.

Upon submission of the dossier, the chair/director will convene a committee to review the dossier and write an evaluation of the NTT faculty member's work. For reappointment cases, the evaluation committee normally includes 3–5 faculty members at or above the rank of the faculty member being evaluated.

Promotion to the Rank of Associate, Full, or Distinguished Professor of Professional Practice

Promotions on the Professional Practice Track are governed by university policies outlined at <https://laborrelations.rutgers.edu/faculty/non-tenure-track-faculty-non-libraries>. As stated there,

Except as noted below, NTT faculty with six consecutive years of full-time service in the same rank shall be considered for promotion to the next higher rank, if requested (i.e., rank review). All other requests from NTT faculty members to be considered for promotion may be granted at the department's or unit's discretion.¹

In order to comply with this policy while also affording the NTT faculty member the opportunity to be promoted effective at the start of year 7, Mason Gross has implemented the following timelines:

Timeline 1: Promotion review schedule for NTT faculty who wish to put themselves up for promotion immediately after six years at rank:

Date	Steps in the promotion review process
No later than April 1 of Year 6	Faculty member discusses potential external reviewers with department chair/director
April 1–May 1 of Year 6	○ Department chair/director confirms selection of external reviewers with the dean ○ Department chair/director sends requests for letters to external reviewers
June 1 of Year 6	○ Department chair/director sends 30-day letter notifying faculty member that the promotion review will commence on July 1 ○ Faculty member submits drafts of personal statement, CV, and any other materials on which they want feedback to the department chair/director and associate dean for academic affairs
July 1 of Year 7 (i.e., the very first day of Year 7)	Faculty member submits the final version of the personal statement, CV, and supporting materials to the department chair/director, so that they can be distributed to external reviewers

¹ The exception pertains to NTT Instructors; Mason Gross does not have Instructors on the Professional Practice Track.

July of Year 7	Department chair/director sends materials to external reviewers
September 1 of Year 7	- Faculty member submits drafts of the NTT Form 1b the NTT Appendix F to the department chair/director - External reviewers submit their letters
October 1 of Year 7	Faculty member submits final version of all forms, appendices, personal statement, CV, and supporting materials for the full review
Within Year 7	Review by department, school A&P committee, dean, and chancellor-provost's office. If successful, the promotion is effective retroactively to July 1 of Year 7.

Timeline 2: Promotion review schedule for NTT faculty who wish to put themselves up for promotion at any later point:

Date	Steps in the promotion review process
No later than April 1 of Year A	Faculty member discusses potential external reviewers with department chair/director
April 1 of Year A	- Department chair/director sends 30-day letter notifying faculty member that the promotion review will commence on May 1 - Faculty member submits drafts of personal statement, CV, and any other materials on which they want feedback to the department chair/director and associate dean for academic affairs
April 1–May 1 of Year A	- Department chair/director confirms selection of external reviewers with the dean - Department chair/director sends requests for letters to external reviewers
May 1 of Year A	Faculty member submits the final version of the personal statement, CV, and supporting materials to the department chair/director, so that they can be distributed to external reviewers
May of Year A	Department chair/director sends materials to external reviewers
September 1 of Year B	- Faculty member submits drafts of the NTT Form 1b, the NTT Appendix F to the department chair/director - External reviewers submit their letters
October 1 of Year B	Faculty member submits final version of all forms, appendices, personal statement, CV, and supporting materials for the full review
Within Year B	Review by department, school A&P committee, dean, and chancellor-provost's office. If successful, the promotion is effective July 1 of Year C. The promotion is not effective retroactively.

It should be understood that NTT faculty members are **not required** to be evaluated for promotion after six years. This is an important distinction from the tenure-track faculty reviews for reappointment and promotion.

Voting: At the departmental level, per university policy, ***a minimum of six tenured faculty members*** at or above the rank for which candidates are to be considered for promotion are required to vote on the recommendation with respect to each candidate. Tenured faculty must be at least 50% FTE in order to vote. Non-tenured faculty members may participate in reappointment or promotion cases, if that is consistent with department policy. If there are not sufficient voting faculty within a department to meet the six-vote minimum, the dean shall appoint an appropriate number of faculty members at or above the appropriate rank from related disciplines in the same school or from a related discipline in other units of the University, to act as *ad hoc* members of the department for the purpose of obtaining and reviewing documented evidence of the candidate's professional qualifications.

Sabbaticals

After six years of service, Professional Practice faculty may request consideration for a paid sabbatical leave. Such requests will be evaluated by the dean on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to faculty who request a paid sabbatical leave in order to complete a specific project. In such cases, Mason Gross will uphold the policies and procedures set forth under the university's annual Sabbatical Leave Program.