According to the Higher Learning Commission, “Faculty teaching in graduate programs should hold the terminal degree determined by the discipline and have a record of research, scholarship or achievement appropriate for the graduate program.” Several qualifications are considered assets for hire either as an instructional/academic staff or tenure-track faculty member in the BFA, BS-Art, BS-Art Education program(s) at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Candidates for graduate faculty status have earned a terminal degree (i.e. earned credential), that is an MFA or PhD or EDD in Art or Art History or Design or Education.

In addition, they have a record of research, scholarship, and achievement that includes:

- national or international exhibition record (invited, curated, etc.) or
- publications (peer reviewed, printed, blog post, electronic, etc.) or
- commissioned projects (artwork, design, public, etc.) or
- professional organization leadership role (president, board of directors, etc.) or
- Research. Scholarly, or creative activities not defined above (donated time or work, personal research, development of specialized skill sets, etc.)