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 English program at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

Candidates for graduate faculty status have earned a terminal degree (i.e. earned credential), that is a Ph.D. in the literature of, language of (examples include Rhetoric, Discourse, Composition, Professional Writing, Creative Writing), or culture of (examples include Cultural Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, Global Studies, Film Studies) English.

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

- Published a scholarly article in a peer-reviewed journal in the past five years
- Published at least two field-related articles in professional journals in the past five years
- Published a book in the last five years
- Developed a new course in the last four years
- Presented two scholarly papers at a regional, national, or international conferences in the last six years