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 Horticulture 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 Horticulture, Plant Science, Plant Breeding, Plant Physiology, Landscape Architecture, or related fields or a Master of Landscape Architecture Degree.

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

- Published research related to horticulture in a peer-reviewed scientific journal within the past three years or
- Presented research results related to horticulture at a professional scientific conference within the past three years or
- Attended a professional conference or workshop related to horticulture annually for the past three years or
- Received a grant to conduct research related to horticulture and made progress towards that research within the past three years.