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 SASA program 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 in Theatre, Film, Media Arts or Drama.

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

- Producing, writing, designing for, acting in or directing theatrical and/or filmed productions
- Publishing in the field of Stage and Screen
- Curriculum development
- Arts administration and management