

Courtesy Appointment Policy
University of Oregon
Department of Philosophy

Proposal: Requests for “courtesy” appointments¹ will be considered and approved or not approved by a vote of the tenure-related faculty in the Department of Philosophy. The procedure for consideration will be as follows:

Individuals who request “courtesy” appointment will be considered initially by the Department Head in light of the following three criteria:

1. the individual’s academic credentials. In general, appointments will only be given to individuals who have appropriate academic credentials at least sufficient to serve as instructors in the Department of Philosophy.
2. the individual’s research interests. Appointments are best awarded to individuals whose research is related to the research interests supported by the Department of Philosophy.
3. the individual’s interest in participating in the philosophy community at the University of Oregon. Individuals who wish to participate in colloquia, reading groups, and informal discussions will be preferred over those who wish to pursue their research without interacting with the department.
4. the individual’s language background. In order to foster the connections described above, individuals who are proficient in English are preferred. Verification of English proficiency will be required in the process of evaluating the individual request for a courtesy appointment (with proficiency demonstrated by a TOEFL score or by another means deemed appropriate by the Department Head).

The Department Head will review each request according to these criteria and make a recommendation to the faculty who will decide whether or not the individual will be invited to apply formally for a courtesy appointment. If the invitation is approved, the Department Head will issue the invitation. If the invitation is not approved, the Department Head will notify the individual of the faculty decision. In addition to the above review, courtesy appointments will also require that a tenure-related faculty member in the Department of Philosophy volunteer to serve as the “sponsor” for the appointment. The title for an individual receiving a courtesy appointment will be “Courtesy Professor.”

Rationale: Until recently the department issued invitation letters to any academically qualified individual who made a request. Limited resources and an increased number of requests suggest that an approval policy is needed. Further, since visitors of this sort often choose the University of Oregon for the opportunity to talk informally with our faculty and take advantage of public talks and other University resources, the consideration process should be weighted in favor of those who, through their presence, can make a contribution to the University philosophical community.

Approved January 11, 2002

¹ “A ‘courtesy’ rank is assigned when a properly qualified individual seeks a non-employment relationship with the institution, usually for purposes of research or service. Often, the appointing department benefits from the participation of such a person in the academic or research program, but no salary is involved.” (*Faculty Handbook*, p. 16)

Addendum to the Courtesy Appointment Policy
(approved February 6, 2012)

Recipients of a doctorate from the University of Oregon Department of Philosophy who do not have an appointment at another college or university shall be recommended to the Provost for appointment as courtesy professor by the Department Head when (1) the recipient provides a letter requesting the appointment, a brief summary of her or his research plans, and a current curriculum vitae and (2) a tenure-related member of the philosophy faculty agrees to serve as the faculty sponsor for the appointment. No faculty vote will be required.

Rationale: Recipients of a doctorate from our department have already received the endorsement of the department and the University when they were awarded their degrees. Courtesy appointments in this case serve as support for on going research that will also aid our alumni in their search for permanent academic appointments. Since the appointments will be routine and apt to come at any time, the Department Head should be responsible for seeing that the appointment is submitted to the Provost without delay.