

**Criteria to be Considered  
in the Review of An Academic Staff Professional Title  
for the Purposes of Assigning the Distinguished Prefix**

It is expected that a distinguished level individual will have demonstrated a history of contributions and recognition in most of the criteria areas:

**Develops Innovative Techniques, Methods or Skills**

- Development of new approaches, methods or techniques to resolve problems with no expert guidance and to cope independently with new, unexpected or complex situations.
- The acceptance of a new method or techniques by one's peers outside of UW-Extension that reflects a contribution to the profession will be regarded as evidence of distinguished status.

**Peer Recognition**

- A reputation of excellence in a profession recognized by other individuals or groups in that same profession outside of UW-Extension and the UW System.
- This recognition might take the form of awards, testimonials, serving as an officer in a professional organization, or serving as a consultant or expert witness for outside agencies or organizations.

**Guides, Trains, or Teaches**

- This might include mentoring, sharing expertise and instructing others in the profession or serving as a resource for peers in the profession for solving complex problems or issues. Presentations before national professional organizations or presentations of educational or training programs for external post secondary organizations or institutions, i.e. teaching courses for college level credit or C.E.U.s outside of normal responsibilities also demonstrate distinguished status.

**A History of Professional Publications or Creative Works**

- A distinguished professional will contribute written, visual, and/or audio media and materials over a span of time that are of benefit to the profession.

**Service to UW-Extension, UW System, or the Community**

- Election to a governance body and/or committee work for UW-Extension, UW System, a professional organization or appointment to community service roles as an outgrowth of professional competence are examples of service.

**Professional Experience**

- A professional at the distinguished level performs at a level of high proficiency typically requiring extensive experience and advanced knowledge of skills.
- It is generally expected that an individual in the distinguished category would have at least ten or more years of progressively responsible experience in their field.