

developed. Completion of a degree in a specific field enhances an instructor's depth of subject matter knowledge and is easily identifiable.

Instructors teaching in undergraduate programs should hold a degree at least one level above that of the program in which they are teaching. If an instructor holds a master's degree or higher in a discipline other than that in which he or she is teaching, that instructor should have completed a minimum of 18 graduate credit hours in the discipline in which he or she is teaching. If an individual instructor has not achieved 18 graduate credit hours in the discipline in which he or she teaches, the department/program should be able to explain and justify its decision to assign

teach at the graduate level teach “applied” courses such as clinical, practicum, or other similar courses.

Doctoral

Instructors guiding doctoral education should have a record of scholarship and preparation to teach at the doctoral level. Research and scholarship should be appropriate to the program and degree offered.

Instructors may teach doctoral students without regard to educational attainment if they have a demonstrable regional, national or international reputation for excellence in the field in which they are being hired to teach.

Adapted from:

1. Higher Learning Commission (2016). Determining Qualified Instructor Through HLC’s Criteria for Accreditation and Assumed Practices.
2. Northern Illinois University (2018). Instructor Credentials Policy