Research Semester Policy

Research Semesters are granted to enable recipients to engage in intensive research or study and thus to become more effective teachers and scholars.

Pre-Tenure

A regular full-time untenured faculty member of the College may be considered for a research semester to be taken after three (3) years of service and after being promoted to associate professor. The Research Semester is one semester without teaching responsibilities at full salary; the faculty member must remain in residence at the College, unless given special leave by the Academic Dean to be away for purposes associated with the faculty member's research. The Research Semester must be taken in the fourth or fifth year of service, to be determined in consultation with the Academic Dean. In the academic year in which a Research Semester is taken, the faculty member must do such committee work as designated by the Academic Dean, and must teach a minimum of two regular classes totalling no fewer than six (6) hours, or the clinical equivalent, in the remaining semester. A Research Semester will extinguish four years of service required to earn a sabbatical. Following the Research Semester, the faculty member will submit a written report to the Academic Dean detailing the work accomplished during the semester.

Post-Tenure

A regular full-time tenured faculty member of the College may be considered for a research semester after six (6) years of service. Research Semesters are available subject to the discretion of the Academic Dean on the basis of curricular needs and in light, in particular, of the number of Pre-Tenure leaves granted. Ordinarily, a maximum of two research semesters will be awarded to tenured faculty members in any one academic year. The Research Semester is one semester without teaching responsibilities at full salary. In the academic year in which a Research Semester is taken, the faculty member must do such committee work as designated by the Academic Dean and must teach a minimum of eight (8) hours, or the clinical equivalent, in the remaining semester, or twenty (20) hours in a two-year period that includes the year in which the research semester is taken, or the clinical equivalent during the same period. A Research Semester will extinguish four years of service required to earn a sabbatical. Following the Research Semester, the faculty member will submit a written report to the Academic Dean detailing the work accomplished during the semester.