



Dear Colleagues,

The COVID-19 public health crisis has not only substantially disrupted our instructional delivery and student support services, but it has also hampered other important parts of our mission, including service, community engagement, research and creative activity. The University also understands that the COVID-19 disruption has affected the work of our tenure-eligible faculty in their pursuit of documenting excellence in all of these areas.

In light of these extraordinary challenges, we announce today a one-year extension of the probationary period (i.e., the “tenure clock”) for all current non-tenured, tenure-track faculty (employed as of July 1, 2020), whose End-of-Probation (EOP) date is later than June 30, 2021. This extension applies to non-tenured, tenure-track faculty in the regular, special, extension, or librarian title series. Each pre-tenured faculty member whose End-of-Probation date is July 1, 2021, or later (which excludes those faculty in the current promotion and tenure cycle) will be granted a one-year extension, without the necessity of formally requesting it. This special COVID-19 extension is in addition to any other extensions of the probationary period that have been or will be granted during one’s pre-tenure period under the provisions of Governing Regulation X.B.1.b. I emphasize that this extension does not affect the qualifications for tenure. The criteria for tenure remain the same as in the Statements of Evidences approved by the faculty in each academic unit.

We will be communicating this policy and implementation details to the relevant academic leaders. Further, the Office for Faculty Advancement will send a communication to all affected faculty, explaining how this probationary period extension process will be implemented, reinforcing that tenure review prior to one's next-to-last-year of probationary service is not inhibited.

Please contact Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement G.T. Lineberry (gt.lineberry@uky.edu) with any questions.

Sincerely,

David W. Blackwell
Provost
