



Oregon State University
**College of Agricultural
Sciences**

Guidelines on Teaching Loads and Teaching Release

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Education is an essential mission of the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS). Fairly recruiting, retaining, and compensating teaching faculty is central to this mission. This document provides general guidance on teaching loads and teaching release for faculty on tenure track appointments. Graduate and undergraduate programs in CAS are diverse concerning the number of students and faculty in those programs, course work, and other academic requirements including laboratories, pedagogical methodologies, average contact hours, and teaching and academic program support (advisors, teaching assistants, or other support). Therefore, developing a college-level teaching load policy applicable to all units is not feasible. Furthermore, CAS leadership believes that faculty engagement in policy development best occurs at the department level. This document provides college-level sideboards for developing unit-specific guidelines.

Teaching Loads. Unit-level teaching loads (FTE on a 9-month, full-time basis) will range from 0.1 to 0.3 FTE for a 3-credit course. Unit-level guidelines shall consider the following factors in the development of these policies: (1) graduate or undergraduate class, (2) class size, (3) number of contact hours, (4) type of class (lecture, laboratory, writing-intensive, team-taught, etc.), and (5) availability of teaching assistance. Unit-level guidelines on per-course credit loads will be standard for full and part-time faculty in tenure-track or fixed-term positions, and document situations governing exceptions that may be granted. The guidelines will also include procedures by which faculty can address cases of excessive workload.

Teaching Release. All departments will provide for a minimum of one class release for all faculty on tenure-track appointments during their pre-tenure period.