

Tenure-Clock Schedule for Faculty Hired at the Rank of **Assistant Professor**

Office of the Provost | University of South Carolina

The following schedule includes the ordinary probationary tenure and promotion cycle, as well as extended probationary periods for up to the maximum of three tenure-clock extensions for faculty hired at the rank of **Assistant Professor**. Faculty hired at the rank of Associate Professor have a shorter cycle and should consult the appropriate schedule for their rank. **Please note that this tenure-clock schedule is a guide only.** The [Faculty Manual](#) is the final authority on tenure and promotion policies and procedures. Candidates and those involved in faculty evaluations should also refer to the [UCTP Guidelines for Units: Preparing Criteria and Files](#), for guidance on preparing tenure and promotion files.

Tenure-Progress Review

Local units determine the cycle for the tenure-progress review (previously referred to as third-year review), which may therefore occur in the fall or spring semester. Candidates with January 1 and August 16 tenure start dates will follow the same calendar. For details, please refer to policy [ACAF 1.05: Tenure-Progress Review of Faculty](#).

Tenure Decision Year

The tenure and promotion decision year may also be referred to as the penultimate year. Typically for an assistant professor, that is the sixth year in the seven-year probationary period; for an associate professor, typically that is year five of a six-year probationary period. Tenure-clock extensions may extend the penultimate year, and candidates must submit tenure files in the decision year. For faculty with a tenure start date of August 16, the decision year is an academic year; candidates typically submit a tenure file in the fall cycle and receive a decision in the spring/early summer. For faculty with a tenure start date of January 1, however, the decision year is a calendar year; candidates typically submit files in January in the spring cycle and receive a decision in December.

Tenure-Clock Extensions

Tenure-Clock Extensions must be approved by the Office of the Provost. The maximum probationary period may not be extended more than three times. Additionally, a faculty member's probationary term of appointment may not exceed ten years. For details, please refer to policy [ACAF 1.31: Extension of Faculty Tenure-Track Probationary Period and Scheduled Post-Tenure Review](#). Tenure-clock extensions are a separate action from modified duties, which are approved by the college or school. Please see policy [ACAF 1.60: Modified Duties for Faculty](#) for additional information.

Automatic COVID-19 Tenure-Clock Extensions

In 2020 in response to the pandemic, the provost announced that all pre-tenure faculty with fewer than three previously approved tenure-clock extensions were automatically granted a tenure-clock extension and extension of the tenure progress review. Candidates may choose to proceed with their original tenure-clock schedule without the COVID-19 automatic one-year tenure-progress review and tenure-clock extensions if desired. If a candidate wishes to proceed with the original tenure-progress review schedule, the candidate may then also elect to proceed on the original tenure-review schedule; however, the candidate's penultimate year will still be the COVID-19 extended decision date. Consult the Office of the Provost's [tenure and promotion website](#) for the COVID-19 Impact on Faculty statements issued in 2020 and 2021 for more information.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Tenure-Clock Schedule Showing the Maximum Allowable Probationary Period
University of South Carolina

Tenure Start Date	Original Tenure-Progress Review (TPR)	TPR with One Approved Tenure-Clock Extension (TCE)	TPR with Two TCEs	TPR with Three TCEs	Original Tenure and Promotion Decision Year and T&P Review Cycle	Decision Year / Cycle with One TCE	Decision Year / Cycle with Two TCEs	Decision Year / Cycle with Three TCEs
August 16, 2017	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2022-2023 Fall 2022	2023-2024 Fall 2023	2024-2025 Fall 2024	2025-2026 Fall 2025
January 1, 2018	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023 Spring 2023	2024 Spring 2024	2025 Spring 2025	2026 Spring 2026
August 16, 2018	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2023-2024 Fall 2023	2024-2025 Fall 2024	2025-2026 Fall 2025	2026-2027 Fall 2026
January 1, 2019	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024 Spring 2024	2025 Spring 2025	2026 Spring 2026	2027 Spring 2027
August 16, 2019	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2024-2025 Fall 2024	2025-2026 Fall 2025	2026-2027 Fall 2026	2027-2028 Fall 2027
January 1, 2020	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025 Spring 2025	2026 Spring 2026	2027 Spring 2027	2028 Spring 2028
August 16, 2020	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2025-2026 Fall 2025	2026-2027 Fall 2026	2027-2028 Fall 2027	2028-2029 Fall 2028
January 1, 2021	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026 Spring 2026	2027 Spring 2027	2028 Spring 2028	2029 Spring 2029
August 16, 2021	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2026-2027 Fall 2026	2027-2028 Fall 2027	2028-2029 Fall 2028	2029-2030 Fall 2029
January 1, 2022	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2027 Spring 2027	2028 Spring 2028	2029 Spring 2029	2030 Spring 2030
August 16, 2022	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2027-2028 Fall 2027	2028-2029 Fall 2028	2029-2030 Fall 2029	2030-2031 Fall 2030
January 1, 2023	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2028 Spring 2028	2029 Spring 2029	2030 Spring 2030	2031 Spring 2031
August 16, 2023	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2028-2029 Fall 2028	2029-2030 Fall 2029	2030-2031 Fall 2030	2031-2032 Fall 2031
January 1, 2024	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2029 Spring 2029	2030 Spring 2030	2031 Spring 2031	2032 Spring 2032
August 16, 2024	2026-2027	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2029-2030 Fall 2029	2030-2031 Fall 2030	2031-2032 Fall 2031	2032-2033 Fall 2032
January 1, 2025	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2030 Spring 2030	2031 Spring 2031	2032 Spring 2032	2033 Spring 2033
August 16, 2025	2027-2028	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2030-2031 Fall 2030	2031-2032 Fall 2031	2032-2033 Fall 2032	2033-2034 Fall 2033
January 1, 2026	2028-2029	2029-2030	2030-2031	2031-2032	2031 Spring 2031	2032 Spring 2032	2033 Spring 2033	2034 Spring 2034