

SECTION 2, CORE REQUIREMENT 2.8

The number of full-time faculty members is adequate to support the mission of the institution. The institution has adequate faculty resources to ensure the quality and integrity of its academic programs. In addition, upon application for candidacy, an applicant institution demonstrates that it meets Comprehensive Standard 3.7.1 for faculty qualifications. (Faculty)

JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Compliant

Partially Compliant

Noncompliant

RATIONALE FOR JUDGMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Teaching is the primary mission of North Georgia College & State University (NGCSU), and the number of full-time faculty who serve this institution and its students is more than adequate to support that mission. The large number of full-time faculty ensures a visible faculty presence on campus and contributes to meaningful engagement with students, including effective mentoring and advising; valuable service to the institution and the surrounding community; and ongoing curriculum development and assessment.

Several quantitative indicators provide persuasive evidence that NGCSU meets standard 2.8. First, the percentage of undergraduate instruction provided by full-time faculty is impressive for a public institution. Shown below are the percentages of lower division student credit hours taught by full-time faculty in the various academic departments during Fall 2005 and Spring 2006:

	Fall 2005	Spring 2006
Percentage of Lower Division Credit Hours Taught by F/T Faculty	Number of Departments	Number of Departments
100	2	3
90-99	3	6
80-89	5	1
70-79	3	2

60-69	0	0
50-59	2	3
N/A	1	1

The percentage of upper division credit hours taught by full-time faculty in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 is also noteworthy, as shown below:

	Fall 2005	Spring 2006
Percentage of Upper Division Credit Hours Taught by F/T Faculty	Number of Departments	Number of Departments
100	8	8
90-99	0	0
80-89	3	3
70-79	2	2
60-69	1	1
50-59	0	0
N/A	2	2

A complete table showing headcounts of full-time and part-time faculty; total numbers of lower division, upper division, and graduate student credit hours; percentages of lower division, upper division, and graduate student credit hours taught by full-time and part-time faculty for Fall 2005, Spring 2006, and Summer 2006 is attached [[1](#)].

A second indicator that the number of full-time faculty is adequate is the student-faculty ratio at NGCSU. The institution prides itself on its consistently low student-faculty ratio, which was 16:1 in Fall 2005. A third indicator is the retention of full-time faculty from one academic year to the next. A quality corps of instruction depends on an adequate level of continuity, and NGCSU works hard to retain its most qualified faculty members. The fact that 86% of the 205 full-time faculty at NGCSU in 2004-2005 returned to the faculty in 2005-2006 provides evidence of needed continuity.

In addition, NGCSU is also well known for its small class sizes, another factor that is considered crucial for quality instruction. As an example, the table below shows the number of undergraduate class sections (855 total) with their class sizes during Fall 2005.

Class Size	No. of Sections
2-9	120
10-19	203
20-29	261
30-39	197
40-49	50
50-99	24
100+	0

Another indicator of adequate faculty resources is the number of full-time NGCSU faculty with terminal degrees. The percentage of full-time faculty with terminal degrees in 2005-2006 is shown below for the four schools:

Arts & Letters	81% (55/68)
Business & Government	63% (26/41)
Education	48% (19/40)
Natural & Health Sciences	55% (30/55)

The three schools offering degrees in the professions have lower percentages of fulltime faculty with terminal degrees than does Arts & Letters; however, these faculty members bring a wealth of field and clinical experience into the classroom.

Finally, additional details about faculty qualifications, details that also support the adequacy of NGCSU's faculty resources can be found in the narrative for 3.7.1 as well as the faculty roster [2]

Document Reference:

Number	DB Num	Document Title	Resource
1		Full-time Credit Hours	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/Institutional_Assess/FulltimeCreditHours.pdf
2		Faculty Roster	http://www.ngcsu.edu/sacs/Reference_Room/documents/Institutional_Assess/NGCSU_Faculty_Roster.pdf