Each year, the CAS Dean determines the number of course releases available for distribution to tenure-track faculty within each department. These course releases are distributed using the department’s professional responsibilities policy. The number of releases a given department receives is based on the criteria below, as applicable to each department.

- The number of student credit hours generated collectively by the tenure-related faculty in the department
- The number of PhD students taught collectively by the tenure-related faculty in the department
- Grant activity and sponsored research generated by the tenure-related faculty
- The department’s academic quality relative to its peers both nationally and within the College
- The pedagogical approaches within the department
- Service responsibilities of the department’s faculty
- The curricular and enrollment needs of the College and University
- Budgetary considerations