The External reviewers must meet the following qualifications:

- Be affiliated with an aspirational institution outside of Texas. For example, this would include a large public or similar institution with a range of programs. These may include UT System--designated aspirational institutions.
- Hold tenured status in a department/program that awards a terminal degree.
- Be nationally recognized and have an active publication record in the discipline.
- Have administrative experience, such as a departmental chair, graduate program director, associate dean, or dean.
- Have no perceived or real conflict of interest. For example, a department should not select an external evaluator who has collaborated with a member of the program under review, or served on a department member’s dissertation committee, or is a close personal friend or relative of any member of the department.