

Who are NYU contract faculty?

Depending on where we work and what we teach, the NYU administration calls contract faculty Lecturers, Language Lecturers, Teachers, Instructors, Clinical Professors, Arts Professors, Industry Professors, Music Professors, Research Professors, or Professors of Practice. We make up half of NYU's full-time faculty.

Like tenured professors, we are full-time employees with a wide range of teaching, research, and administrative roles. However, most of us teach more and earn less than our tenured colleagues, and we don't have the security of tenure. Every few years, we have to reapply for our jobs, with no guarantee we'll get to keep them.

In February 2024, contract faculty across NYU voted overwhelmingly to form our union, Contract Faculty United - UAW, the largest union of private-university full-time non-tenure track faculty in the country. As we negotiate our first union contract, we are fighting for improved job security,

compensation, and benefits that will support our work with students and our lives — and we're fighting to protect academic freedom and the integrity of an NYU education.

How can students help?

Students can stand with their contract-line professors by signing our Contract Faculty Pledge.

Join us in calling on President Mills and the NYU Board of Trustees to respect our contributions to NYU and agree to a fair contract.

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What's at stake in the contract faculty's union negotiations?

Contract faculty working conditions are our students' learning conditions. We teach classes with over 130,000 students each year. Without us — our teaching, our service, our expertise — NYU could not deliver on its mission “to be a top quality international center of scholarship, teaching and research.”

By seeking to enshrine strong protections for academic freedom and shared governance, we aim to ensure that it is subject-matter experts, not donors or politicians, who determine how and by whom students are taught.

By striving to establish better healthcare and family care benefits, to name just two, we hope to assure that we have the health, time, and attention to devote to our students that they deserve.

And by insisting on parity with our tenured colleagues (the other half of the full-time faculty) with regard to compensation, retirement, sabbaticals, and housing, we set out to make certain that our students can continue to learn from “outstanding faculty who are leaders in their fields.”

Does this mean you're going on strike?

That depends in large part on the NYU administration. Strikes — the collective withdrawal of labor — are the most powerful weapon workers have. Since in general workers don't want to go on strike, strikes happen when bosses refuse to negotiate reasonably. Often the very threat of a strike is enough to win a contract. That's what happened the last time a group of NYU faculty negotiated a contract; adjunct faculty in ACT-UAW 7902 voted to authorize a strike and won a contract that set new national standards for part-time faculty. But in general, bosses who don't want a strike make agreements around workers' key demands.

CFU is fighting for the future of NYU at the bargaining table. We're opposing the misuse of AI to teach or design classes, and we're demanding intellectual property rights and protections against discrimination and harassment. We want our contract to safeguard the academic freedom that American universities uphold: decisions about what to teach, whom to teach, how to teach, and who should teach must be made on the basis of faculty expertise, not the whims of administrators, politicians, or donors. **Sadly, the NYU administration has not yet agreed to fair terms on these crucial topics.**

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