The title of Industry Professor is reserved for people who have substantial business or industrial experience at senior levels of management, and who fill a special instructional need in the Faculties of Business and Engineering and possibly other Faculties. It is a generic title like that of a Visiting Professor without any academic rank attached to it.

The appointment can be part-time or contractually limited over a specified period. The intent is to enhance student exposure to business and professional experiences at a senior level that are not readily available in the University and to add depth to existing capabilities.

If the appointment is to a specific Department or Area, the Chair of the Department or Area would make the recommendation for the appointment, in the case of cross-departmental or broad Faculty appointments the Dean will make the recommendation after consultation with the Chair of the Departments or Areas concerned.

The appointee is not obligated to participate in Area or Department meetings, although the appointee would be on the mailing lists to receive materials, where routine academic and administrative business is transacted; however he/she may be invited from time to time to express opinions and share viewpoints that would enhance the quality of instruction and professional training by the Department, Area or Faculty.
In making this appointment, for a specified period the appropriate conditions outlined in the McMaster University Policy pertaining to part-time appointment or contractually limited term appointment shall be observed.

As well, as these appointments will often be for periods beyond a year, an annual activity report would be asked of the appointee.