

# **Scholarship Requirements For Tenure**

Department of Computer Science  
Lafayette College

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## **Introduction**

This document is an expansion of the scholarship requirements for tenure in section M.2 of the Lafayette Faculty Handbook (2011-2012). The purpose is to explicate the requirements in the context of the discipline-specific criteria of the Department of Computer Science at Lafayette. This document will be part of the information the Promotion, Tenure and Review Committee will use when determining your qualifications for tenure and for promotion to professor.

Conference proceedings are generally the most common form of publication in the field of computer science, especially in experimental sub-fields. This is not true for the theoretical sub-fields which more commonly resemble the field of mathematics, where most of the publications occur in journals and in addition have many authors collaborate on each publication. This practice is confirmed by the best practices memorandum published by the Computing Research Association (CRA)[1]. However, some of the circumstances have changed somewhat since the publication of the memorandum in 1999.

In 1999, the common practice was for all submissions to be full-length papers, ranging from 5 to 8 pages in length (two column, single spaced). These papers were then reviewed (sometimes blind reviews were used) by at least three or four reviewers. The reviews were then collected by the program committee who then decided on the acceptance or rejection of submissions. Authors were then informed as to whether their papers had been accepted or rejected along with the reviews. Accepted papers were published in the conference proceedings and were orally presented at a session during the conference. Authors of rejected papers could choose to use the reviews to revise their papers and submit to other conferences. Submissions for posters were considered separately and they were usually much shorter papers (2-3 pages) that were not included in the proceedings of the conference. Generally, papers are accepted for poster presentation when the papers describe interesting research and one of the following is true - (1) the work is not sufficiently mature and more work is required, (2) the work is an incremental extension of existing research, or (3) there are several other papers in the same area that have higher reviews.

Within the past five to seven years, many conferences have expanded to have a poster session as part of the conference. Submissions are still full-length and reviewed by three or four reviewers. The program committee now determines if a submission should be (1) accepted for oral presentation, (2) accepted for poster presentation, or (3) rejected. Some conferences only have poster presentations while others have a mix. The acceptance rate of submissions for some conferences only counts papers that are accepted in category 1, i.e., papers that are accepted for oral presentation. Candidates are encouraged to provide information about the processes used by the program committees of the conferences where their papers are published, particularly if the process used by the publication venue differs substantially from the common practice.

## **Scholarship Record**

The Department's assessment of scholarship will concentrate largely on work done since coming to Lafayette. In evaluating scholarly activities for tenure, the Department expects you to be a practicing computer scientist. In other words, the topic of your primary scholarship must be a recognizable subfield of the discipline of computer science. The scholarly record should demonstrate a coherent and ongoing research program and should consist of yearly activities such as (in rough order of importance)

1. Publications, including those accepted but not yet in print, in peer-reviewed conference presentations and journals
2. External grants received – considered to be equally important to publications.
3. Posters presented at conferences with full paper submissions and peer review
4. Publications, including those accepted but not yet in print, in workshops
5. Posters presented at conferences with submissions of abstracts only.
6. Publicly available software development related to your teaching or research.
7. Invited talks at national or regional conferences; talks at other colleges or universities.

Works in progress that have been accepted but not published are considered as if they were published. Works in progress that have not been submitted are given light consideration.

The Department will give consideration to the quality of the venue in which the candidate's publications appear. We recognize that acceptable scholarship might take many forms and can differ between subfields.

## References

- [1] PATTERSON, D., SNYDER, L., AND ULLMAN, J. Evaluating computer scientists and engineers for promotion and tenure. [http://http://www.cra.org/resources/bp-view/evaluating\\_computer\\_scientists\\_and\\_engineers\\_for\\_promotion\\_and\\_tenure/](http://http://www.cra.org/resources/bp-view/evaluating_computer_scientists_and_engineers_for_promotion_and_tenure/).