

Philosophy Department Scholarship Guidelines

The recognized forms of scholarship among philosophers include: the refereed journal article, the presentation of refereed papers at professional meetings, books (monographs and anthologies), chapters in and introductions to books, and invitations to speak or present papers at professional meetings, colleges and universities. All of the above can constitute significant evidence of scholarship, but the primary emphasis in philosophy falls upon the refereed journal article. Thus while the publication of monographs is assuredly laudatory, as is publication in more than one or two related sub-fields of the discipline, such contributions are not necessary to a successful research program. In the evaluation of scholarship in philosophy, determinations regarding the quality of scholarly articles are paramount. A successful candidate will have a record that includes several published journal articles as well as other work, most notably completed and submitted articles of high quality or promise. It is well established that the publishing process in philosophy journals—especially those regarded as among the best in the field—is notoriously difficult, with rejection rates exceeding 90%, and often very slow (with decisions on papers taking up to nine months or a year, and actual publication from the time of submission to completion sometimes taking as much or more than four years). Thus any reasonable evaluation of scholarly accomplishment includes consideration of the quality and quantity of papers accepted and under consideration, with the understanding that the mere quantity of published work may not be the best measure of scholarly accomplishment. Some well known and highly regarded philosophers made their reputations on the strength of but a few important papers.