Scholarship Guidelines for Tenure and Promotion
Lafayette Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Scholarship Guidelines for Tenure/Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor in WGS

In considering candidates for tenure and promotion, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program recognizes the interdisciplinary nature of the field and acknowledges that women’s and gender studies scholarship comes in many forms and employs a variety of methods.

A candidate’s work is expected to be in or connected to the scholarship on women and gender, which may take the form of work done in the candidate’s area of disciplinary specialization or in the area of women’s and/or gender studies as an interdisciplinary (an approach to scholarship that entails a synergistic integration of disciplinary knowledges). We recognize that interdisciplinary scholarship contributes substantially to the vitality of women’s and gender studies scholarship and teaching.

The candidate must present evidence of having established an ongoing program of research; in keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of women’s and gender studies, that program may reflect various projects and multiple approaches. Normally, scholarship should have published results and a substantive portion of the work should be peer-reviewed (or the appropriate equivalent). The results should reflect high quality and a clear promise of sustained contribution to the candidate’s field(s) of inquiry.

Assessment of quality will be based on internal evaluations of scholarly/creative work, reports from external reviewers, and publication venue. Highly valued venues for scholarship include books and monographs from scholarly and other reputable presses, articles in peer-reviewed journals (and peer-reviewed, on-line publications), and peer-reviewed essays/chapters in edited books. We also recognize the value of work in additional venues such as articles in non-refereed journals and edited books, articles submitted to journals, and other kinds of publications such as grant applications, book review essays, book reviews, and conference papers. We do not consider work in these additional venues as sufficient, in and of themselves, to constitute scholarly production sufficient for tenure and/or promotion. Given the multidisciplinary nature of Women’s and Gender Studies, we recognize that forms of “publication” (for areas such as performance and creative projects) may vary depending on the candidate's primary disciplinary training and on the expectations and conventions within his/her disciplinary field.

Trajectory of scholarly activity will be assessed on the basis of progress on research project(s) beyond the dissertation as evidenced by publications, conference papers, performances of creative work, grant applications (both funded and unfunded), and so on.

In addition, candidates are expected to demonstrate active engagement in their fields of expertise. Presenting papers at international, national, or regional conferences, organizing and chairing sessions or serving as discussants at conferences, giving invited talks or workshops locally or elsewhere, participating in online forums and public venues for scholarly exchange, and serving as readers or referees for journals are all examples that demonstrate such active engagement.
Scholarship Guidelines for Promotion to Professor in WGS

In keeping with guidelines established by the Lafayette Faculty Handbook, candidates for the rank of full Professor must demonstrate "high achievement as teacher, scholar, and leader in the academic community"; it is understood that such candidates will have "some flexibility in establishing a sensible and productive balance among the three criteria" (Lafayette Faculty Handbook 4.1.5.4.2). Candidates for promotion to Professor in WGS should demonstrate high achievement in scholarship and ongoing engagement with scholarly projects, with "scholarship" being understood in the same broadly comprehensive and interdisciplinary ways in which it is outlined in the Guidelines for Tenure/Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor. Candidates are expected to have moved forward with and/or beyond the research submitted during their tenure review.