

Scholarship Guidelines for Tenure and Promotion
Department of Economics
Lafayette College
(As approved by the Economics Department on August 17, 2020)

I. Guidelines for Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure

Candidates for tenure must establish themselves as scholars within the discipline and must also provide evidence of continuing scholarship. Publications beyond the dissertation, active participation in scholarly discourse with professional peers, conference participation, and works in progress, are important indicators of research sustainability. Assistant professors who arrive at Lafayette with a prior record of scholarship must demonstrate the ability to maintain their scholarship at Lafayette.

Publication in refereed journals is the most important criterion for evaluation of scholarship. When evaluating journal publications, we consider both the quality and quantity of these publications as well as the quality of the journals in which they appear. Because of this, we encourage colleagues to strive for publications in high quality journals. In assessing the quality of a candidate's scholarship, the views of outside evaluators constitute important evidence in the overall process. Another indicator of the quality is the quantity of journal citations, although we recognize that these citations may not appear until sometime after publication. Note that the Department weights accepted or forthcoming works the same as published works and evaluates them in the same way.

Co-authorship is quite common, if not the norm in economics and the department views it as generally positive. It is common practice to list co-authors alphabetically by last name. Candidates are expected to explain their role in the co-authoring relationship in their tenure self-evaluation.

The department recognizes that some research in economics requires specialized, graduate-level skills. Thus, co-authorship with students is not expected and is not given special consideration in the evaluation of scholarship.

In sub-fields in which books rather than articles are a common form of scholarship, the quality of the academic press as well as scholarly reviews of the work are important indicators of the quality of the research.

Both community-based scholarship and the scholarship of teaching and learning are evaluated in the same manner as other research in a candidate's scholarship portfolio. Namely, in addition to our professional evaluation of the scholarship itself, we will also consider journal quality, comments by outside reviewers and journal citations.

Grant applications and awards will be evaluated in a manner similar to that of other research. Namely, in addition to our professional evaluation of the grant itself, we will also consider comments by outside reviewers as well as the prestige of the granting agency.

Professional activities, such as editorship, review of manuscripts, and service on professional committees, are considered under service, not scholarship.

Digital archives, including data sets, are accorded value, but only if they are associated with publications.

II. Guidelines for Promotion to Full Professor

Candidates for promotion to Full Professor should demonstrate sustained achievement in scholarship. The Department will look for the same kinds of evidence for this that are outlined above for promotion to Associate Professor. Although candidates may, if they choose, continue in the same area of scholarly work as before tenure, they must demonstrate that they have moved beyond the body of work submitted during the tenure review. This new work should show sustained progress on a major project or projects and result in significant publications.

III. Impacts of COVID-19 on Scholarship

The department recognizes that the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may significantly impact an individual candidate's scholarly activities during the pandemic and for some length of time after the College returns to normal operations, depending on the nature of the research and on the scholarly processes in the discipline. It will be the responsibility of the candidate under review to describe the negative impacts of the pandemic on their scholarship. If the candidate chooses, this description can appear as a document in the candidate's scholarship portfolio, and can be referenced in the self-evaluation. It will also be the responsibility of the department to explicitly consider those impacts during reviews of the candidate's scholarship file. This paragraph holds for any version of the department's scholarship guidelines that the candidate may elect for the evaluation of their scholarship as described in Section 4.2.2.1.2 of the 2019-2020 Faculty Handbook.