

SCHOLARSHIP STANDARDS FOR TENURE AND/OR PROMOTION

Department of Government and Law

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Updated September 2020* and April 2025**

In evaluating the research portfolio of a candidate for tenure and/or promotion, the Department will consider the following:

FORMS OF SCHOLARSHIP

The forms of scholarship that will be accepted fall into three tiers. Tiers are arranged from most important to least important. Items within tiers are not ranked.

1. Original research¹

- Books
- Articles
- Book chapters

2. Other forms of academic scholarship

- Competitive, externally-funded, grants and fellowships
- Edited collections (e.g., editing a book or a special issue of a journal)
- Textbooks
- Review essays, book reviews, and other forms of scholarship that make use of expert knowledge in the discipline
- Invited lectures in academic forums
- Conference presentations and other conference activities (e.g., organizing panels)
- Creation of publicly-available scholarly databases

3. Scholarship in the public sphere

- Articles or editorials in print or digital form (e.g., op-ed pieces, blogging)
- Lectures in non-academic forums (e.g., community lectures)
- Applied research and/or community-based research (e.g., Congressional testimony; research conducted for a non-profit)

¹ It is generally expected that such research will be published, in paper or online, by university or scholarly publishers; a candidate may make the case for other publishers (e.g., trade presses) in their self-evaluation. Peer-reviewed publications typically carry more weight than those that do not undergo peer review.

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA FOR RESEARCH

In evaluating the quality of a candidate's research portfolio, faculty members may judge: (1) the quality of the research in terms of such things as argument, methodology, data, and/or analysis; and (2) the contribution of the research to the field of political science as well as other academic fields (if research is interdisciplinary).

Faculty members' quality evaluations may derive from several sources: (1) the opinions of external reviewers; (2) their own reading of the work and personal evaluation; (3) the relative prestige or status of the publication (or other) outlet in the field of political science, relevant subfield(s), and/or other discipline(s), as judged by experts in the relevant field(s) and journal rankings or impact factors; and/or (4) the candidates' self-evaluation. Faculty members may wish to take into account other indicators of quality, such as awards, book reviews, reprints in collections, citations of work, and/or inclusion of work on course syllabi at other institutions.

No single combination of quantity and type of research output is expected for tenure and/or promotion. The Department recognizes that there are many ways a scholar may construct a productive, satisfactory scholarly record. However, if the quality of a candidate's research is judged to merit tenure and/or promotion, the following examples of research records would be sufficient (but not necessary) to meet scholarship expectations:

A. For tenure and promotion to associate professor, or for tenure only at the rank of associate professor:

(1) the publication,² by a university or scholarly press, of a single-authored book presenting original research and the publication, by a peer-reviewed journal, of one single-authored article presenting original research; or (2) the publication, by peer-reviewed journals, of a combination of single- and co-authored articles presenting original research, such that the candidate's total contribution to these articles is the equivalent of five single-authored articles and at least two of the articles are single-authored.³

It is generally expected that candidates will have made progress on a project that is independent of their dissertation research and pursued after arriving at Lafayette. Such progress may be demonstrated in a number of ways, including a publication, manuscript, or collected data. In evaluating a candidate's research trajectory, plans for future research may also be taken into account.

² A written work that is not yet published will be considered published for tenure and/or promotion purposes when there exists a communication from the publisher or editor stating that all required revisions have been made satisfactorily, no further reviews will be sought, and the work has been put on a production schedule with an expected date of publication indicated.

³ Undergraduate students will not be considered to be co-authors for the purposes of tenure and/or promotion evaluation. Student involvement in a candidate's research program is not required.

B. For promotion to full professor, or for tenure only at the rank of full professor:

(1) the publication,² by a university or scholarly press, of two single-authored books presenting original research and the publication, by peer-reviewed journals, of two single-authored articles presenting original research; or (2) the publication, by peer-reviewed journals, of a combination of single- and co-authored articles presenting original research, such that the candidate's total contribution to these articles is the equivalent of ten single-authored articles and at least four of the articles are single-authored.³

It is generally expected that candidates will have made progress on research beyond the material presented for tenure and promotion to associate professor, or for tenure only at the rank of associate professor. Such progress may be demonstrated in a number of ways, including a publication, manuscript, or collected data. In evaluating a candidate's research trajectory, plans for future research may also be taken into account.

In assessing scholarly records that differ from the above examples, evaluators may consider whether exemplary research quality, amount of work in various stages of the publication process, second or third-tier scholarship, and/or other factors produce a research portfolio that meets or exceeds research expectations.

***IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON SCHOLARSHIP** [Added September 2020]:

The Department recognizes that the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may significantly impact scholarly activities and productivity during the pandemic and for some length of time after normal College operations resume. The Department will consider these impacts during its reviews of scholarship records and encourages faculty members to explain impacts that are particular to their individual situations and scholarly activities.

****RESEARCH DISRUPTIONS** [Added April 2025]:

The Department recognizes that global events, such as pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, government shutdowns, border closures, and trade wars, have direct effects on the landscape of research infrastructure and support external to Lafayette, and may significantly impact an individual faculty member's scholarly activity. This can include but is not limited to accessibility to funding, availability of data sources, participation in professional conferences, and ability to collaborate. These circumstances may require a candidate to shift their areas of scholarly expertise, topics or regions studied, methods employed, and distribution of their research. Such shifts involve substantial investments of time and resources, and delays and/or gaps in the scholarly record may result. It will be the responsibility of the faculty member under review to describe the negative impacts of such disruptions on their scholarship and the responsibility of the department to consider those impacts during reviews of the individual's scholarship file.