Neuroscience Program
Scholarship Guidelines
April 2025

The Neuroscience Program expects all of its members to maintain active, productive, sustained programs of scholarship that result in publications. Candidates for tenure need to demonstrate scholarly activity that goes beyond the dissertation and establishes an independent research trajectory at Lafayette. Both the quality and the quantity of the candidate's work will be considered during tenure deliberations. Candidates for promotion to full professorship should further demonstrate leadership in their subdiscipline and scholarship of (inter)national prominence.

The Program recognizes that given the wide range of specialty areas in neuroscience, evidence of scholarly activity may take a number of forms and the emphasis on particular modes of scholarship may vary. Listed below are examples of evidence of scholarly activity. Peer-reviewed scholarship is valued more than non-peer-reviewed work. Please note: to determine if other activities qualify as appropriate scholarship, the candidate is encouraged to consult with the Program Chair and their Conference Committee.

Peer-reviewed scholarship.
Original research articles published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals are the primary indicator of scholarly activity. Articles "in press" have passed peer review and are therefore considered equal to published papers. Scholarly books, textbooks, book chapters, grant proposals, abstracts, conference proceedings, and conference poster and paper presentations, literature reviews, methodological papers, and research on the teaching and learning of neuroscience are also considered to be evidence of scholarship. Manuscripts under revision and/or under review will also be considered, but are weighted less heavily. Obtaining external grant funding is not expected but is appreciated.

Online and open access journals that meet disciplinary standards for peer-review are evaluated in the same way as traditional print journals. Online and open access journals that do not meet disciplinary standards for peer review are evaluated as non-peer-reviewed scholarship (see below).

Non-peer-reviewed scholarship. The following also contribute to scholarly activity: Book chapters, research articles, invited lectures and addresses, encyclopedia entries, edited books, textbooks, technical reports, books written for the general public, book reviews, scholarly blogs and acting as a discussant at conferences. Manuscripts in preparation but not yet submitted for publication would also be considered in this category. Obtaining Lafayette College research and advanced study grants is also valued. Participating in replication efforts, providing data and/or other research materials to the scholarly community according to Open Science principles will also be evaluated favorably. Consulting activities will be considered where appropriate to the subdiscipline. Original writing for (or speaking to) public audiences on scholarly topics are also valued as acts of public engagement.

Within each category, scholarly work in which the candidate is first author or corresponding author will be weighted most heavily; being the last author will be highly weighted where that position conveys project leadership. Other co-authored works will also constitute scholarly activity. The candidate's overall materials should demonstrate an independent research program independent from mentors. Collaborative work is expected and valued; in co-authored work, the candidate should indicate how he or she contributed to the final product. Scholarly work with undergraduate co-authors will be looked upon favorably; furthermore, there is an understanding that research conducted in collaboration with students may differ from the candidate's programmatic research area. Scholarly activity prior to arrival at Lafayette will be valued, but it alone is insufficient evidence of research productivity.

Scholarly impact will be judged through means such as evaluating the quality of the scholarly work, the quality of the journal or book in which the work appears, and the influence of the work in the field (e.g., through citations). Secondary measures of scholarly impact include media coverage and similar indicators of public engagement.

Addendum (Spring 2025)

The Neuroscience Program recognizes that the landscape of research infrastructure and support external to Lafayette may significantly impact an individual faculty member's scholarly activities. 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 make adaptations in the topic, method, and distribution of their research, from which delays and/or gaps in the scholarly record may result. Specific impacts can be discussed with the department head/program chair as they develop and should be described by the candidate in their self-evaluation where appropriate.