

Scholarship Guidelines for Tenure and Promotion
Department of Economics
Lafayette College
(As approved by the Economics Department on April 21, 2026 - Effective July 1, 2026)

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.

Publication in refereed journals is the most important criterion for the evaluation of scholarship. When evaluating journal publications, we consider both the quality and quantity of these publications. Because of this, we encourage colleagues to strive for publications in high-quality journals. In assessing the quality of a candidate's publications, the views of outside evaluators constitute important evidence in the overall process. Additionally, the number of citations is another measure of article quality, though we recognize that these citations may not appear until sometime after publication and can differ based on field of study. The quality of the journals in which publications appear is also an important indicator of publication quality. Indicators of journal quality include but are not limited to various journal rankings (ABDC - Australian Business Deans Council, SCImago, etc.) and citation and impact scores (Journal Impact Factor, CiteScore, SNIP, h-index, etc.).

Publications that extend beyond the dissertation, active participation in scholarly discourse with professional peers, conference participation, and works in progress, are important indicators of the promise of continued scholarship. Assistant professors who arrive at Lafayette with a prior record of scholarship must demonstrate the ability to maintain their scholarship at Lafayette.

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. Co-authored papers where the candidate's contributions are substantial are valued more than those where their contribution is lesser.

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. Disruptions in Scholarship Due to Unexpected Events

The department recognizes that external 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 activities. This can include but is not limited to accessibility to funding, availability of data sources, participation in professional conferences, research travel, 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. 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 2025-2026 Faculty Handbook.