

Department of Political Science
2017 Statement on Significant Scholarly/Artistic Work

Introduction

The mission of the St. Olaf College Department of Political Science is as follows:

The study of politics is an essential part of a liberal arts education and our lives as scholars. The Department of Political Science fosters habits of reflection and analysis, and cultivates knowledgeable, thoughtful, and effective citizens.

A faculty member's portfolio of scholarly work in the Department of Political Science may include contributions to:

- The discipline of political science
- Related interdisciplinary fields (e.g., area studies, public policy, public administration, American studies, women's studies, environmental studies, political philosophy)
- The scholarship of teaching and learning
- The scholarship of civic engagement
- Public or non-profit agencies using tools of inquiry that characterize political science (including, but not limited to, advising on legislative acts, policy proposals, professional guidelines and standards, and treaty language).

Of these domains, contributions to disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship (the first and second domains above) are of first importance, but the remaining domains are valuable as well.

The Department affirms the *Faculty Manual* provision that "A candidate's portfolio of achievements may include scholarly...work of varying types, but a portion of the portfolio normally shall include work that has been professionally reviewed by peers beyond the college in the candidate's scholarly or artistic field(s)" (Section 4.VII.C.2.b).

Types of scholarly and artistic work

The following types of work are listed within each category in rank order of presumed significance. However, the actual significance of any specific activity, publication or presentation may be affected by the extent to which it is characterized by the indicators of significance described below.

The Department affirms the *Faculty Manual* provision that "scholarship may involve individual research, research with students, research with other faculty, or research with community partners" (Section 4.VII.C.2). Thus, any of the types of scholarly engagement and scholarly dissemination described below may be undertaken individually or with one or more collaborators, including other faculty, students, and/or professionals in the field.

1. Engagement in scholarly or artistic activity

- Acquiring grants in support of scholarly research
- Engaging in scholarly research in support of significant work in progress
- Serving in a leadership capacity in a professional association based on scholarly accomplishments, such as holding office
- Serving on an academic editorial board

- Applying for grants in support of scholarly research
- Delivering invited lectures at scholarly gatherings or public forums
- Reviewing book and article manuscripts for publication
- Serving as panelist or discussant at a meeting of a scholarly organization or an association of professional practitioners in a relevant field

2. **Dissemination of scholarly or artistic work**

Scholarly work may be disseminated via print venues, online venues, or both. The significance of the dissemination is determined by the indicators described below, and not by the means of dissemination.

- Peer-reviewed books and monographs
- Articles and essays in refereed professional journals
- Book chapters in edited volumes
- Research-based reports or other significant papers for a public agency or a non-governmental organization
- Professional books and journal articles
- Book chapters or articles in non-refereed scholarly venues
- Reports on grant-funded scholarly projects
- Paper presentations to a scholarly organization or an association of professional practitioners in a relevant field
- Workshops conducted for a scholarly organization or an association of professional practitioners in a relevant field
- Book reviews, research notes, and other more limited articles and essays

Determination of significance

The significance of scholarly work in the Department of Political Science is determined by the extent of peer review required for publication, presentation, or participation; the academic prestige of the sponsoring institution (publisher, granting agency, etc.); any honors or awards received for the activity; other indicators of impact on the discipline or on public life; and/or the size of the budget supporting the activity.

The department values and encourages collaborative scholarship (e.g., co-authored research, collaborative grant proposals, etc.) between our faculty and peers at St. Olaf and elsewhere. Collaborative works are not assumed to be of less significance than works prepared by a single author; the significance of a faculty member's contribution to a specific collaborative work depends on the nature of that contribution. The department also values scholarly collaboration with students. Yet we realize that undergraduate students might not be prepared to contribute to scholarship in all subfields within our discipline. Therefore faculty-student collaborations are highly valued but not required for tenure and/or promotion.

In its evaluation of all the types of scholarly and professional activity identified above, the Department privileges peer-reviewed scholarly books and articles over other work. It values individually authored work and work with multiple authors equally. It values completed work over work in progress, scholarly works over works of popularization, and presentations to scholarly audiences over those to general audiences.

Grants, honors, and other awards offer another measure of faculty members' scholarly and artistic contributions to the field. The department values recognition from external organizations over awards presented by the college and peer-reviewed awards over those that are not peer reviewed.

Expectations for accomplishment

The expectations described below are intended to serve as general indicators of the quantity and quality of scholarly activity and dissemination appropriate to each rank. Different combinations of different types of work may yield equivalents to the specified expectations, depending on the significance of the work as determined by the application of the indicators described under number two above. It is assumed that each of the disseminated works is of high quality. At each rank, the disseminated work must include, but need not be limited to, contributions to the discipline of political science or related interdisciplinary fields.

1. **Assistant Professor at the comprehensive review preceding the tenure review (typically in the fourth year)**

A faculty member at this stage normally should provide evidence of consistent engagement in scholarly activity. The engagement need not yield a "product" each year, but should give evidence of progress toward dissemination. By the time of the comprehensive review, the faculty member should have disseminated, or had accepted for publication, the equivalent of at least 2 article-length publications and 2 individual professional presentations where the faculty member's work is the featured topic of the presentation.

2. **Associate Professor with Tenure**

A candidate for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor should provide evidence of consistent engagement in scholarly activity. The successful candidate will have disseminated, or had accepted for publication, the equivalent of at least 3 article-length publications and 2 professional presentations where the faculty member's work is the featured topic of the presentation (inclusive of works completed by the time of the previous review). At least 2 of the disseminated works must have been peer-reviewed prior to publication or presentation.

3. **Professor**

A candidate for Professor normally should provide evidence of consistent engagement in scholarly activity. Typically, the successful candidate will have disseminated, or had accepted for publication, the equivalent of one book or 7 article-length publications, and 5 professional presentations (inclusive of works completed by the time of the previous review). At least 4 of the disseminated works must have been peer-reviewed prior to publication or presentation.

4. **All post-tenure faculty**

A faculty member with tenure normally should provide evidence of consistent engagement in scholarly activity and regular dissemination of completed projects. While the schedule for dissemination will depend on the scope and nature of the work, tenured faculty should disseminate the equivalent of one publication or presentation every other year, with a portion of such work having been peer-reviewed prior to dissemination.