

St. Olaf College Department of Social Work and Family Studies
Statement of Significant Scholarly and Artistic Work
2017

Introduction

The Department of Social Work and Family Studies supports and evaluates the scholarly and professional accomplishments of its faculty in keeping with:

- The mission of St Olaf College to challenge students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition;
- The mission of the Department of Social Work and Family Studies *to prepare liberally educated professional social workers to ethically serve diverse populations and promote a lifelong commitment to a just global community*; and
- The policies, practices, values and ethics of social work education as established by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE).

The Department acknowledges teaching is the primary focus of St. Olaf's faculty and scholarship and continuing renewal of practice knowledge and skills is essential to outstanding teaching. We therefore use the phrase scholarly/professional work throughout this document. In this Department the primary teaching, practice, and research discipline is *social work*. We also value teaching and scholarship in the interdisciplinary area of *family studies*.

Scholarly/professional work is completed by faculty members and can include activities generated by faculty with students in social work, family studies, and related disciplines. Faculty in this department have a primary identity in social work, so the department evaluation process centers on contributions to social work practice, education, research, and the profession as a whole. We also value contributions that are interdisciplinary, particularly those related to research and practice with families. The department recognizes the following activities as valued contributions to the social work profession and as the foundations for evaluation of faculty.

Types of Scholarly and Professional Work

The department expects faculty members to engage in a range of scholarly/professional work, with some from each of two types: Dissemination of Scholarly/Professional Work and Engagement in Scholarly/Professional Work. The types are ranked, with those in Type 1 carrying the most weight in tenure and promotion decisions. All faculty are required to maintain appropriate state licensure and fulfill responsibilities for completing continuing education requirements.

Scholarly/professional work is ranked in order of significance. Those in Type 1 carry the most weight in all reviews, particularly in the tenure and promotion review, followed by activities in Type 2. **Type 1 activities are weighted in descending order; Type 2 activities are in no particular ranked order.**

Type 1: Dissemination of scholarly/professional work that contributes to the body of knowledge, skill, and values necessary for professional practice and education. Within this

category, a. i-iv is the most significant for consideration at time of review, followed in order by b-g.

- a. Peer reviewed publications – the faculty member is expected to demonstrate a progression of their research agenda and publication. We recognize that in social work collaboration is the norm in scholarly/professional work.
 - i. Published work in professional journals for social work and/or family studies audiences or journals in related professions and disciplines, e.g. medicine, sociology, nursing, psychology
 - ii. Published solo or co-authored books, chapters, monographs
 - iii. Edited books or monographs - exclusively social work, or interdisciplinary
 - iv. Published papers in proceedings of a state, regional, national or international symposium or conference
- b. Peer reviewed research or scholarship presentations at professional meetings, (e.g. BPD, CSWE, NASW)
- c. Supervised research with students leading to:
 - i. Publication
 - ii. Presentation at conferences
 - iii. Presentation on campus/in local community
- d. Service as general editor or series editor for a journal or publisher
- e. Secured grants for faculty and/or student research, study or activity, whether funded internally or externally
- f. Book reviews
- g. Published handbooks, manuals, and similar documents to guide professional practice

Type 2: Engagement in scholarly/professional work that promotes understanding of social work and/or family studies by those in other academic and practice areas and thereby contribute to the general education of students, faculty, and the academic community at large (within this category, activities a-h are in no particular order of importance)

- a. Testimony or legislative writing for policy-making on specific issues of social welfare or human services
- b. Invited lectures and convocation speeches for local, national, or international audience
- c. Completed internal or external grants (not funded)
- d. Peer reviewer for journal submission, book manuscripts, or conference presentation
- e. Leadership in implementing meetings events for the college community to promote understanding of social work and family studies in the liberal arts
- f. Leadership in professional associations (holding office, chairing sessions at group meetings, soliciting members, etc.).
- g. Provision of social work, social welfare, or family studies information to the public through electronic media

- h. Leadership in implementing educational programs to develop or renew knowledge and skills of practice, teaching, or assessment in social work, family studies or related disciplines
- i. Consultation (short-term or on-going) at the request of a local, state or national human service organization, educational institution or governmental entity

Determination of Significance

Scholarly/professional work, in order to be designated significant, will be recognized, evaluated, and/or judged by peers who represent the academic community, the professional community, or both. All the activities listed in these two types are scholarly; *this distinguishes the community-based scholarly activities of social work as different from the community service activities performed by, for example, a history professor with a community agency, or by a statistics professor in an academic civic engagement course.*

Expectations for Accomplishment

At each level of review, the department expects demonstration of breadth in scholarly/professional work. The nature of social work as an applied academic discipline necessitates an expansion of what is considered “scholarship.” At the same time, faculty members are expected to demonstrate an ongoing capacity to successfully publish in academic peer-reviewed journals and/or books.

1) *Assistant Professor* - at the time of the comprehensive review preceding the tenure review (typically in the fourth year of the probationary period), the candidate will have a minimum of scholarly/professional work in three Type 1 activities (at least one from 1a.) and at least 2 of the activities from Type 2.

2) *Associate Professor/Tenure* - at the time of consideration for tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor, the candidate will have a minimum of five Type 1 activities (with three of those from 1a.) and ongoing activities from Type 1.

3) *Professor* - at the time of consideration for tenure and promotion to the rank of professor, the candidate will demonstrate continued engagement and productivity in regard to Type 1 scholarly/professional work.