

St. Olaf College Department of Nursing
Statement of Significant Scholarly/Artistic Work
2018

As nurses and scholars, nursing faculty engage in research designed to meet the profession's demand for innovation and leadership in nursing education, research and practice. Nursing scholarship is recognized within the profession as those activities "that systematically advance the teaching, research, and practice of nursing through rigorous inquiry that 1) is significant to the profession, 2) is creative, 3) can be documented, 4) can be replicated or elaborated, and 5) can be peer-reviewed through various methods" (American Association of Colleges of Nursing Position Statement, 1999). Scholarly activity among nursing faculty focuses on one of three main areas: nursing pedagogy, which concerns itself with developing and assessing new teaching practices to enhance undergraduate learning; nursing technique and practice, which focuses on examining the efficacy in a clinical setting of alternative methods of caring for patients and promoting improved communication and interaction with other health care professionals; and nursing education, which explores and contributes to programmatic innovations and assessments of nursing curricula both pre- and post-licensure.

Scholarship in nursing may be carried out individually, through mentored projects with undergraduate students, and in collaboration with other nursing faculty or health care team members. Additionally, the Department of Nursing values interdisciplinary work and encourages connections with other departments and programs at the college and beyond. Whatever form scholarship takes, its two essential characteristics are that it is subjected to review by academic peers and that it uses the specialized knowledge, expertise, or training of the nursing discipline.

Evidence of accomplishment and activity within each of the three foci of nursing scholarship described above (pedagogy, technique and practice, and nursing education) takes two forms, as described below.

a. Scholarship as discovery, publication and dissemination

Across all three foci of scholarly activity in nursing, publication and success in obtaining external funding through a peer-reviewed process remain the most highly-valued forms of evidence of scholarly accomplishment. The most highly-valued activities within this area take the form of published work in peer-reviewed Nursing journals, interdisciplinary journals or journals targeting related professions (e.g. medicine, mental health, social work, public health), published books and chapters in books, and published papers in the proceedings of national or international conferences. Success in obtaining external funding in support of scholarly activity is also recognized as a highly-valued contribution to scholarship as discovery, publication, and dissemination.

Other forms of dissemination that provide evidence of scholarly accomplishment include presentations at national or regional professional conferences (e.g. American Association of the Colleges of Nursing, National League of Nursing, International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning), and service as a general editor or series editor for a journal or publisher.

While all grant writing in support of scholarly activity is recognized as contributing to scholarship as discovery, publication, and dissemination, the department recognizes as most highly valued those proposals that meet success in obtaining external funding. In general, competitive awards from national organizations are valued more highly than those from local or regional organizations, and external grants are assigned more weight than internal grants.

b. Scholarship as application and synthesis

Activity by nursing department faculty that serves the discipline through the application and synthesis of existing knowledge is valued and recognized as scholarly activity. Examples of this form of scholarly

activity include the preparation of handbooks, manuals, and similar documents that guide professional practice; preparation and professional dissemination of case studies, computer-assisted learning modules, and simulation scenarios, and expert testimony related to the discipline before government commissions legislative bodies, courts of law, or other bodies where the testimony may be challenged by other members of the profession.

Peer-reviewed activities within this category that reach a national or international audience are valued more highly than those that target a regional or local audience.

Expectations for Accomplishments

It is expected that the level of scholarship, leadership and responsibility of an individual faculty member will increase with experience and rank. Faculty may conduct various kinds of scholarship at different stages of their careers. In keeping with our intent to establish and promote professional diversity within the department, we do not anticipate any single faculty member would engage in all areas of scholarship. The following list of examples of professional activities is not meant to be exclusive. Breadth of professional activity across areas of scholarship is highly encouraged for faculty.

1. Pre-tenure review
At the time of the comprehensive review preceding the tenure review (normally in the fourth year of the probationary period), nursing faculty should expect to provide two pieces of evidence of scholarly activity as recognized by the department and described above. At least one of these contributions should be from among those listed as a highly-valued form of scholarship as discovery, publication and dissemination.

2. Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
Candidates for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor will show evidence of continued research and publication, with at least three items that reflect scholarship as discovery, publication and dissemination, two of which shall be peer-reviewed publications; and at least one item that reflects contributions to scholarship as application and synthesis.

3. Promotion to Professor
Candidates for promotion to the rank of Professor should have made significant contributions of scholarship in the areas above since their last promotion, such as publication of refereed articles, books, or textbooks; successful grant proposals; scholarly presentations; or other significant scholarly achievements. Some of these contributions should be in the areas the department values most highly.