



MOUNT ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE
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Political Science – Scholarship statement adopted February 2016

Scholarship includes the creation and discovery of new knowledge and the transmission of such knowledge. Scholarship should be seen as engagement in a process that leads to an output presented to others. In the field of Political Science, co-authored works are common and are even the norm in many subfields. Examples of scholarship typical in the discipline of political science include: the interpretation of primary sources, analysis of field research, analysis of relevant data or historical event, or the application of knowledge discovered by others to problems of concern to political communities.

The Department of Political Science acknowledges that there are many ways that scholarship is understood, and that different weights can be given to the value of different forms of scholarship. Generally speaking, we regard each of the following items to be evidence of scholarship, listed in order of merit:

- published scholarly books or monographs which have been subject to favorable external review by academic peers/experts in the field.
- published articles or studies in journals that have been subject to favorable external review by academic peers/experts in the field.¹
- other writings in the field, such as books, book chapters, popular articles, or articles in professional journals, which may not have been reviewed beyond the editors of those publications, but which still present contributions to the discipline. This may include curricular material such as textbooks, or academic materials that are reviewed by other experts and are published and/or distributed to other teacher-scholars in the field.
- papers that have been presented at scholarly meetings, conferences, or symposia (either on panels or in poster form).
- respected grants and other scholarly awards, such as Fulbright awards, that have been awarded from granting agencies on the basis of peer reviewed grant proposals.
- participation in professional work, such as work generated through grants or government studies, which is based on the participant's field of expertise.

¹The Department of Political Science does not rank scholarly journals; candidates for promotion or award may, however, strengthen their cases by providing evidence of journals' selectivity.

- time spent doing field research in distant locales (including cultural immersion, interviews, visits to archives and other repositories) with the intent of producing scholarly writing to be shared with other scholars or used in teaching.
- creative works that rely on the scholars knowledge and are popularly disseminated and/or reviewed by academic peers and experts in the fields
- essays, articles, encyclopedia entries, works co-authored with undergraduates that appear in undergraduate journals, or other discourses that appear in print or other media, which may be popular in nature but which draw upon the expertise of the individual.
- participation in professional discussions, such as roundtable discussions, in front of other professional peers.
- published reviews of the work of peers.
- the editing or refereeing (blind or otherwise) of the works of peers.
- service as chair or discussant on panels at professional conferences.

Scholarship Prior to Employment at Mount St. Mary's. The Department of Political Science recognizes that scholarship and scholarly activity that occurred prior to employment at Mount St. Mary's may be evidence of scholarly productivity and an indication of an on-going research agenda, especially for those hired with credit towards tenure for previous service at other institutions. For example, modification or use of material from a candidate's doctoral dissertation for publication would be clear evidence of continued scholarly productivity, as would material started at other institutions but completed since arrival. In any case, candidates for tenure, promotion, or award should indicate in their applications the work that they have done with the prior scholarship since their arrival at Mount St. Mary's University.

Promotion to Professor. Promotion to the rank of Professor requires "a record of consistent and distinguished scholarly development and productivity" (*Governing Documents* 6.10.2.2). Potential components of such a record are described above. Candidates for promotion to this rank are required to make a compelling case that their scholarly work fits this definition.

Quantitative guidelines. There is a considerable variety of time commitment necessary for the completion of different types of scholarly work. For example, field and/or archival research may require more time to complete than a quantitative analysis from a pre-established data set. As such, the Department of Political Science does not assign a fixed number of publications necessary for tenure and promotion. However, when candidates request a number for their own guidance, we suggest that, ordinarily, candidates for tenure should have a combination of articles, professional writing, and presentations that are equivalent to three scholarly publications in refereed academic journals. Similarly, candidates seeking guidance for promotion to the rank of Professor are advised to demonstrate that their scholarly productivity since promotion to Associate Professor is, at a minimum, equivalent to a book that has been subject to favorable external review by academic peers/experts in the field. For both tenure and promotion to

Professor, it is the candidate's responsibility to demonstrate the equivalency. In both cases, there should also be evidence of an ongoing research agenda.

Michael J. Fawcett Date 5/19/16
Department Chair

Rev. James D. Doherty, OSB Date 05/23/16
Dean

Jennette C. Hunter-Cervera Date 5-23-16
Provost

Karl W. Gray Date 6/1/16
President