

Buffalo State University
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
Statement on Faculty Scholarship Expectations

This statement on Department of Geosciences faculty scholarship expectations is a general guide. Each new faculty member will have their own letter of expectations specific to their time toward promotion and tenure at Buffalo State University. Whereas this statement is focused on the period prior to that decision, faculty members are expected to continue advancing their scholarship throughout their time at Buffalo State.

Faculty join the department with strong records of scholarship. Our department colleagues are expected to continue to conduct investigations that advance knowledge in geosciences, and that provide them with involvement in their discipline community. It is appropriate for new faculty to spend the initial stages of their appointments completing work begun before joining Buffalo State, e.g., completing and submitting manuscripts for publication. A geosciences faculty member should have the initial stages of an independent research program underway by the second or third year at Buffalo State. Such a program may include the performance of pilot or full research studies, writing grant proposals, and mentoring and collaborating with Buffalo State undergraduate research students. The Buffalo State University Department of Geosciences and the School of Arts and Sciences commit resources whenever possible to supporting junior faculty members in the period leading to promotion and tenure.

Documentation must be provided that a research program at Buffalo State is well established by the time a faculty member applies for promotion and tenure. Individual research programs will develop at different paces and the level of accomplishment will vary among faculty. Research accomplishment can be documented by a variety of means, including those traditional in the geosciences: a record of presentations at professional meetings, grant proposals, receipt of grant and contract awards, preparation of manuscripts and publication in peer-reviewed geosciences journals, and peer-reviewed books and book chapters.

The scholarship referred to here is scholarship conducted since joining Buffalo State. The best record of research accomplishment is one that includes referenceable products (e.g. peer-reviewed journal publications, conference presentations, and field guides). Grant proposals at levels appropriate to the faculty member's area of scholarship are also expected. When evaluating scholarly productivity, the department will consider such factors as the quality of the scholarly work, the reputation and impact factor of journals in which papers are published, the reputations of grant funding agencies, the involvement of students in research, and the nature of the candidate's contribution to each product. Many geosciences faculty are engaged in projects that connect to the Buffalo, New York, and wider communities, so this scholarly component will be taken into account.