

Buffalo State University
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY
Statement on Faculty Scholarship Expectations

Faculty join the department with strong records of scholarship, and we expect our colleagues to continue to conduct investigations which advance knowledge and which provide them with a sense of involvement in their particular disciplines. It is appropriate for new faculty to spend the initial stages of their appointments completing work begun before joining the department, e.g. completing and submitting manuscripts. By about the second or third year at Buffalo State, a faculty member should have the initial stages of an independent research program underway. This could include the performance of pilot experiments, writing grant proposals and collaborating with undergraduate and graduate research students.

By the time faculty members apply for promotion and tenure, they must provide documentation that they have established a research program at Buffalo State resulting in publication. Naturally, 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, and we will use those traditional in the natural sciences: record of presentations at professional meetings, grant proposals, receipt of grants and contracts, preparation of manuscripts and (especially) publications in peer-reviewed journals. Since our areas of expertise are various, we will ask for assistance from colleagues at other institutions in judging research accomplishments.

The best record of research accomplishment is one which includes products which have been peer-reviewed (e.g. grant proposals and publications). When evaluating scholarly productivity the department will take into account such factors as the quality of the scholarly works, the reputations of journals in which papers are published, the reputations of granting agencies, the involvement of students in research, and the nature of the candidate's contribution to a paper or grant proposal. The scholarship referred to here is scholarship conducted since joining our department.