

Buffalo State University
Department of Government, Planning, and Philosophy
Statement on Scholarship

Members of the Department expect faculty joining the department to establish and maintain a strong record of scholarship. Each faculty member is expected to continue conducting investigations that advance knowledge and understanding within their specific areas of expertise beyond what is demonstrated for the terminal degree.

By “scholarship” the Department means the presentation of one's research in written or oral form to an audience for dialogue and assessment. Research by itself is not scholarship. For research to qualify as scholarship, it must be presented in a public form open to potential assessment.

Examples of evidence of scholarship include, but are not limited to, respected academic publications such as books, journal articles, and book reviews. Written work need not be published to qualify as scholarship. Work presented to colleagues for assessment, whether at Buffalo State University (BSU) or elsewhere, can also meet the definition. Oral presentations at professional meetings, conferences, and public lectures also serve as evidence of scholarship. Public-facing forms of presentation—e.g., podcasts, documentaries, interviews, and other forms of engagement with the public intended to share and disseminate ideas, tools, or approaches—also count as evidence of scholarship.

By the time a faculty member applies for promotion and tenure, the candidate must provide documentation that they have established a research program at BSU, resulting in recognition and publication. Not all research programs progress at the same pace, and research accomplishments can be documented through various means as outlined in the specific guidelines for promotion and tenure enacted within the Department. It is, however, the Department's expectation that each faculty member has established a consistent record of scholarship. While submissions of grant proposals, financial awards, and research-based awards are highly encouraged, they are not mandated for promotion to Associate Professor.

The best record of research accomplishment is one that includes products that have been peer-reviewed (e.g., publications and/or grant proposals). The Department will consider factors such as the quality of the scholarly work, the reputations of the journals or publishing houses in which works are published, the reputations of granting agencies, and the nature of the candidate's contribution to a paper or grant proposal when evaluating scholarly productivity. For specific evaluation criteria, please refer to the Department's promotion and tenure guidelines.

Adopted by the Department of Government, Planning, and Philosophy.

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