

**College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English**

Scholarship Expectations for Tenure and Promotion

Overview

Creighton University’s “Mission and Values” statement defines the aims of faculty scholarship as follows: “When not working closely with students, Creighton faculty members conduct research to enhance teaching, to contribute to the betterment of society and to discover new knowledge. They model a passion for learning and spirit of magis that is felt by our entire community.” The Department of English values interdisciplinary, collaborative, theoretical, and applied scholarship in various forms that commits itself to the aims of the above statement.

The department’s scholarship falls into three broad subfields: literature, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition. These three are equal subfields and there is no hierarchy between them. Work in all three is equally valuable. As this document elaborates, there are, however, distinctions between programs and the kinds of publications they value.

Generally, we define scholarship as an artifact disseminated into the public sphere after external peer or editorial review. While we emphasize both the quantity and quality of a faculty member’s scholarly achievements, we acknowledge the difficulty of identifying measurable standards that can be applied to every case of tenure and promotion. This difficulty is compounded by the emergence of new digital means of disseminating scholarship. Consequently, the responsibility of making a case for the quality of scholarly activity lies with the candidate going up for tenure and/or promotion.

Tenure

Assessment should focus on a candidate’s work published or produced since appointment to a full-time position at Creighton. The primary requirement for tenure is an emerging body of evaluated and recognized scholarship. Such scholarship will differ for each subfield but is typically evidenced by what follows.

Literature:

- A minimum of three peer-reviewed journal articles or refereed book chapters in established publications.

Creative Writing:

- A minimum of three short stories, novel excerpts, or essays published in editorially reviewed journals or magazines, or a minimum of nine pages of poetry published in editorially reviewed journals or magazines.

Rhetoric and Composition:

- A minimum of three publications in any appropriate branch of this subfield, such as methodology, historical or archival research, empirical research, educational research, and collaborative and interdisciplinary work for scholarly peer-reviewed journals or equivalent-quality online or digital media.

Promotion to Associate Professor

Assessment should focus on a candidate's work published or produced since appointment to a full-time position at Creighton. The primary requirement for promotion to associate professor is a substantive body of externally evaluated and recognized scholarship. Again, such scholarship will differ for each subfield but is typically evidenced by what follows. Note: For promotion to associate professor, a book is defined as a manuscript that is, at the least, under contract and submitted in its final, revised form for publication.

Literature:

A book published by a university or other well-regarded press, plus one or two peer-reviewed articles or book chapters. Or, if more appropriate to a candidate's area of research, five peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, or other publications or scholarly projects that establish a candidate's expertise.

Creative Writing:

- A minimum of six short stories, novel excerpts, or essays published in editorially reviewed journals or magazines. Or a minimum of eighteen pages of poetry published in editorially reviewed journals or magazines. Or a book—a novel, a memoir, a short-story collection, an essay collection, or a poetry collection—published by a university or other well-regarded press.

Rhetoric and Composition:

- A book published by a university or other well-regarded press, plus one or two publications in any appropriate branch of this subfield, such as methodology, historical or archival research, empirical research, educational research, and collaborative and interdisciplinary work for scholarly peer-reviewed journals or equivalent-quality online or digital media. Or, if more appropriate to a candidate's area of research, five peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, or other publications or scholarly projects that establish a candidate's expertise.

Promotion to Professor

Assessment should focus on a candidate's work published or produced since promotion to associate professor. The primary requirement for promotion to professor is a distinguished body of scholarship that indicates a national reputation and demonstrates an established trajectory of relevant activities. Once again, such scholarship will differ for each subfield but is typically evidenced by what follows. Note: Since there is no timeline for promotion to professor, for the purposes of evaluation for promotion to full, a book is defined as a published manuscript.

Literature:

- A book published by a university or other well-regarded press, plus a minimum of two peer-reviewed articles or book chapters. Or, if more appropriate to a candidate's area of research, five peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, or other publications or scholarly projects that establish a candidate's expertise.

Creative Writing:

- A book—a novel, a memoir, a short-story collection, an essay collection, or a poetry collection—published by a university or other well-regarded press. For promotion to professor in the subfield of creative writing, fellowships, grants, residencies, or awards and other honors for published work or for work in progress are important additional indicators of reputation and distinguished scholarship.

Rhetoric and Composition:

- A book published by a university or other well-regarded press, plus a minimum of two publications in any appropriate branch of this subfield, such as methodology, historical or archival research, empirical research, educational research, and collaborative and interdisciplinary work for scholarly peer-reviewed journals or equivalent-quality online or digital media. Or, if more appropriate to a candidate's area of research, five peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, or other publications or scholarly projects that establish a candidate's expertise.

Additional Criteria for Tenure and Promotion

Beyond publication, the following may be considered evidence of achievement and reputation in the three subfields of literature, creative writing, and rhetoric and composition. It is expected that faculty will demonstrate relevant levels of achievement in some combination of these activities along with the items noted above:

- Invited presentations, lectures, keynotes, or readings of published work at scholarly or professional conferences, festivals, conventions, bookstores, reading series, or academic institutions.

- Invited appearances as a panelist at scholarly or professional conferences, festivals, conventions, or academic institutions.
- Organizing, chairing, or moderating panels at scholarly or professional conferences, festivals, conventions, or academic institutions.
- Editing books, book series, journals, or single journal issues.
- Fellowships and grants.
- Awards and other honors for published work or for work in progress.
- Print, radio, television, or online interviews with the candidate for published work.
- Residencies at artists' colonies or academic institutions.
- Reviews of the candidate's published work in editorially reviewed journals or magazines.
- Encyclopedia entries or published reviews of peer publications.
- Republications or translations of the candidate's published work abroad.
- Anthology republications of the candidate's published work.
- Visiting professorships at academic institutions.

Guidance for Evaluating Community-Engaged Scholarship

In accordance with Creighton University's mission that faculty engage in scholarship and research for the betterment of society, the department encourages and recognizes community-engaged and related scholarly endeavors. We especially value scholarship that contributes to the university's mission, the common good, and the development of teaching initiatives within the department and across disciplines and programs.

Section G.9.a.v of the Creighton Faculty Handbook specifically recognizes that "[s]cholarly achievement is ordinarily demonstrated by publication of books, reviews, and articles, by the delivery of scholarly papers, by activity in scholarly societies, ... and by appointments as editor, reviewer, and referee. The demonstration of achievement may also be fulfilled with scholarly contributions that are focused on community engagement. In addition, such factors as ... procedures and methods and consulting activity are taken into consideration as appropriate to the discipline." We recommend that candidates evaluate the significance of their community-engaged scholarship based on close consultation with the department chair and the dean.

Our specific guidance includes:

- Recognition of refereed publications that have a direct benefit for local communities or the scholarly community, especially when the peer-review process involves the scholarly community and engagement with local community peers.
- Recognition of refereed publications that result from collaboration with local community experts and that serve to promote justice and inclusion for disenfranchised, marginalized, and minority peoples, even if the local community person represents community expertise without commensurate academic rank.

- Recognition of refereed publications that result from collaboration with organizations and agencies serving public interests or engaging in advocacy at the local or global level.

Addenda for the Subfield of Creative Writing

- There are no refereed journals for creative writing. Instead, journals and magazines are editorially reviewed (an editorial staff judges submissions impartially, according to objective standards).
- For creative writing, it is to be assumed that the candidate is the sole author of each journal, magazine, or book publication.
- An M.F.A. is a terminal degree and, as such, is equivalent to a Ph.D. insofar as rank, tenure, and promotion are concerned. The M.F.A. is the most common degree among creative writers and other fine-arts practitioners at academic institutions.
- It is not the norm for creative writers to present papers, appear as panelists, or deliver lectures. Instead, it is expected that creative writers give readings of their published work (at conferences, festivals, bookstores, coffeehouses, reading series, and academic institutions).
- “Pages of poetry” constitutes no more than one poem per page, although a single poem may of course be longer than one page.