

# Creighton UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Theology

## Scholarship Expectations for Tenure and Promotion

The following scholarship expectations reflect the thinking within the department, and are presented as guidelines to aid in the review of the dossiers of candidates.

### **For Tenure**

Normally the department discourages the conferral of tenure without promotion to Associate Professor, but recognizes that such a contingency may arise. The departmental standards for the conferral of tenure are the same as the standards for promotion to Associate Professor (see below), subject to the following circumstances that could result in this contingency:

- I. The faculty member had a slow start in research for legitimate reasons. Steps have been taken to correct the situation, but insufficient time has passed for the results of those steps to be realized.
- II. The faculty member had difficulties as a teacher. Steps have been taken to correct the situation, but insufficient time has passed for the results of those steps to be realized.

### **For Promotion to Associate Professor**

Scholarship achievement necessary for advancement to the Rank of Associate Professor:

- I. Everything listed in the Performance Standards for Scholarship is considered in the decision for the promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.
- II. The normal level of scholarly productivity expected is 4-5 peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements with evidence of meaningful contribution to the field including quality of the journal or press.
  - A. The discrete disciplines of theology have both theoretical and applied dimensions. Publications in either of these dimensions is acceptable.
  - B. In Theology, a book is more significant than an article. Hence the publication of one book is usually worth at least 2-3 peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements. Books may include original research, translations of a primary text, anthologies of the candidate's work, text-books, etc. An edited book where the author contributes an essay to the edited volume may count for 2 peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements. It is the obligation of the applicant to make the case for the value of the book to, and its impact on, the discrete field.
  - C. Scholarly productivity of less than 4-5 peer-reviewed publications may suffice for tenure and promotion. For example, if a given publication is deemed particularly

- significant or published in a very selective journal it may count for 2 peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements.
- D. Peer-reviewed electronic publications fulfill scholarly publications in Theology.
  - E. Scholarship on teaching and the scholarship of teaching fulfill scholarly publications in Theology.
- III. Presents 4-6 scholarly or professional presentations at regional or national conferences in the field; invited or peer-reviewed presentations at large meetings are particularly significant.
- IV. Book reviews are a scholarly contribution but do not generally carry the same weight towards tenure and promotion as peer-review publications or scholarly or professional presentations.

### **For Promotion to Professor**

Scholarship achievement necessary for promotion to the rank of Professor may be measured by some or all of the following:

- I. Minimum requirement is consistency and improvement in the requirements listed in the foregoing for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor.
- II. 7-8 additional peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements with evidence of meaningful contribution to the field and quality of the journal or press.
  - A. Professors should publish in the leading journals in their fields. It is the obligation of the applicant to demonstrate the quality of the journal in which an article appears.
  - B. In Theology, a book is more significant than an article. Hence the publication of one book is usually worth at least 2-3 peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements. Books may include original research, translations of a primary text, anthologies of the candidate's work, text-books, etc. An edited book where the author contributes an essay to the edited volume may count for 2 peer-reviewed (or where appropriate, editorially-reviewed) publications or equivalent scholarly achievements. It is the obligation of the applicant to make the case for the value of the book to, and its impact on, the discrete field.
- V. Presents 5-7 additional scholarly or professional presentations at regional or national conferences in the field; invited or peer-reviewed presentations at large meetings are particularly significant.
- VI. Ultimately, the norm of scholarship for promotion to Professor goes beyond a quantitative norm. It is an impact norm: has the applicant made a demonstrable impact on the discrete field? This demonstration may be achieved via recognition by peers, citations of her/his work, invitations to visiting lectureships, academic honors, office in scholarly society(ies) in the field, editorial boards, collaboration with other recognized scholars.

### **Note**

**Performance Standards for Scholarship:** The heart of the evaluation process of scholarship is peer review. Progress in scholarship should be measured by the following peer-reviewed activities.

- I. Peer-reviewed books in either print or electronic media. Peer-review often takes the form of post-publication reception rather than prepublication screening.
- II. Articles published in peer-reviewed journals.
- III. Applied articles synthesizing scholarly work.
- IV. Authorship of a chapter in a peer-reviewed book.
- V. Authorship of book reviews in peer-reviewed journals.
- VI. Presentation of scholarly papers at professional meetings.
- VII. Presentation of a creative or artistic work in an appropriate public form
- VIII. Funded research projects.
- IX. Invitations by peers to author articles, chapters, book reviews, and to give invited lectures or presentations.
- X. Service as a peer reviewer or editor.
- XI. Recognition as a consultant on research, applied, and creative projects.
- XII. Work in the digital humanities.