

To: Tim Kaufman-Osborn, Provost and Dean of the Faculty
From: Denise Hazlett, Chair of the Economics Department
Date: April 7, 2011
Re: Department Scholarship Guidelines

Scholarship in the Department of Economics

The Department of Economics expects its members to stay current in their areas of study and to actively engage with the community of scholars in their fields. In addition to publication in peer-reviewed journals, forms of professional engagement could include, for example, participating in conferences and seminars and working with others on research projects. The department will evaluate scholarly work based on the sophistication of economic reasoning, insight, and empirical applications, and for originality and contribution to the field of study.

The department complies with the Whitman College Faculty Handbook guidelines and procedures for evaluating faculty members for contract renewal, tenure, and promotion. The department encourages all of its members to be familiar with the criteria in the handbook. Progress in professional activity should be consistently apparent at the point of contract renewal, tenure and promotion. For promotion to full professor, the economics scholar should show evidence of an ongoing successful program of professional activity. The following department guidelines elaborate on the handbook guidelines, establishing departmental scholarship standards consistent with handbook criteria a.-f. listed under "Excellence in Professional Activity." As the handbook notes, all of items a.-f. are valuable, and item a. is necessary.

Department Scholarship Guidelines

- a. *Research and writing that appear in peer-reviewed publications, noteworthy performances or exhibitions, or other appropriate peer-reviewed professional activities in the candidate's field(s) of study.*

Economics scholars typically publish articles in peer-reviewed journals in economics or related fields. They might also publish peer-reviewed books or chapters in books.

Observations on the peer-reviewed publication process in economics

Most economics journals have a double-blind referee process. Referees are typically not paid. An author can submit a manuscript to only one journal at a time. It may be many months before an editor receives all of the referee reports and sends a response to the author. Outright acceptance of an article is rare. Most non-rejections come in the form of a request to revise and resubmit. In the time between an editor's acceptance of a manuscript for publication and the actual publication, the manuscript appears on the

author's curriculum vitae as forthcoming. For a multi-authored article, the order of a (non-alphabetized) list of authors' names indicates their contribution to the work. An alphabetized list is ambiguous; it could indicate equal contribution by the authors.

b. Peer-reviewed publication in related areas, including but not limited to, matters of pedagogy and curricular design:

Examples in this category include publishing a peer-reviewed journal article, book, chapter in a book, textbook or instructor's manual.

c. Non-peer reviewed publication and professional activity:

Examples of non-peer reviewed publications and professional activity include publications that appear in a working papers series, reports for government or policy institutes, and book reviews.

d. Active involvement in professional organizations:

Examples of active involvement in professional organizations include editing a journal, refereeing journal articles, refereeing grant proposals, serving on boards, and organizing conferences.

e. Participation in professional meetings and conferences, including presentations made with student co-authors:

Conference presentations are generally part of the process leading to publication. Presenting at a conference or seminar can provide valuable feedback prior to submitting an article for publication.

f. The writing and submission of proposals for external grants:

The department encourages the writing and submission of proposals for external grants.