

Rhetoric and Media Studies (RMS)

Department and Program Scholarship Guidelines

For the Committee of Division Chairs.

RMS is a diverse area of study and hence each candidate's scholarship and/or creative work will and should follow different trajectories. Some candidates will demonstrate a breadth of intellectual engagement; others will focus and develop a specific area of scholarship; still others will engage in creating artistic works. Our department focuses on qualitative research and so publications engaging in critical analyses of the production, history, culture and theory of rhetoric and media and/or creative works featured in refereed or juried venues should be the primary focus of a department member's research; quantitative research should not be the primary focus, although it is not discouraged.

To that end, we encourage candidates for tenure or promotion as well as all faculty members in RMS to seek the very best in their scholarly pursuits in their areas of interest. Specifically, they should seek to:

FIRST AND NECESSARY TO TENURE AND PROMOTION

Peer reviewed publications, exhibitions, and/or screenings in a candidate's field of study are a necessary part of justifying tenure or promotion.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

For both rhetoric and media oriented scholars, such peer reviewed items should appear in appropriate refereed journals, as monographs, as chapters in books for which the submissions are refereed or in refereed or juried exhibitions or festivals.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS IN RELATED AREAS

Peer Reviewed publications and exhibitions outside of specific disciplinary venues should be given full consideration so long as they are related to the candidate's specific areas of expertise. Peer Reviewed publications and exhibitions outside a candidate's areas of expertise should be considered for their scholarly or artistic merit but shall count less than those within their expertise.

VALUABLE TO TENURE AND PROMOTION

The following Professional Activity, though in and of themselves not sufficient to warrant granting tenure or promotion, also contribute to the scholarly profile of a candidate for tenure or promotion.

NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Non-Peer reviewed publications with scholarly or artistic merit are one means of augmenting a candidate's professional activity. These may be self-published works, debate materials such as evidence packets and topic analyses, papers submitted to

conferences that do not use peer review, or essays written for venues serving the larger public. While not peer reviewed, these publications should be reviewed by department members to determine their merit as scholarship for the purposes of assessment of the candidate's work. ***Scholarly or artistic merit shall be defined as contributing to the intellectual understanding of communication-rhetoric-argument-media theory as demonstrated by clear relationships with scholarly or artistic concepts and thinkers.***

INSTRUCTION ORIENTED PUBLICATIONS

Publications in instruction oriented publications are another venue for contributing to a candidate's professional activity. Such instructional materials should be reviewed by other departmental members for their scholarly merit; actual instruction materials or course/program outlines or descriptions would not be eligible. If a candidate's scholarship emphasizes instruction, such as someone who has an emphasis in educational rhetoric, that candidate's peer reviewed educational rhetoric scholarship should be counted as peer reviewed publication.

NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCES OR EXHIBITIONS

Performances and exhibitions that are neither refereed nor juried may count toward professional activity when such events demonstrate scholarly or artistic merit. Presentation of a candidate's film, a rhetorical analysis, engagement in a debate, particularly in the candidate's field of study, would count when it demonstrates scholarly or artistic merit.

PARTICIPATION AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

Attendance at professional conferences is encouraged but mere attendance shall not be considered as evidence of professional activity or scholarship. To count as professional activity, candidates should submit papers or creative works, including those with student co-authors, serve as panel chairs, and/or attend business meetings at appropriate conferences. Service in the organization can include, for example, serving as a chair of a panel, journal editor, and leader of an association project.

WRITING AND SUBMITTING EXTERNAL GRANT PROPOSALS

The writing and submission of proposals for external grants is encouraged and should be considered scholarship in the same way that non-peer reviewed work is; it should be reviewed by departmental members or by refereed panels for its scholarly or artistic merit.

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

ADVANCEMENT TO PROFESSOR STATUS

Ultimately, for publication and professional activity, full Professorship should result from a demonstration of a significant, long term, and ongoing intellectual contribution to the study of rhetoric and/or media through publications and/or exhibitions with scholarly or artistic merit. This might be achieved by a substantial number of peer reviewed articles, the writing of a book, the editing of a major scholarly work, or some combination thereof; it might be achieved by a select set of peer reviewed articles that demonstrate especially strong intellectual contribution; or by juried or refereed creative works appearing in a number of festivals or exhibitions.

CONSIDERATION OF CO-AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

Typically, the lead author is featured first in publications in our area of intellectual inquiry but that is not always the case and being the lead author does not necessarily indicate what that author accomplished. To avoid any confusion, the candidate should state what their contributions to co-authored papers are and, from that, the degree to which the candidate contributed to the scholarly merit of the article may be ascertained.

THE FORENSICS TRACK POSITION

The Forensics Track Position is promoted and given contract renewal on a basis different from tenure track faculty in our department. As the *Faculty Handbook* notes for the Forensics Track Position:

The professional activity of the candidate will also be evaluated. A broad definition of professional activity will be used, and in particular, **publication will not be a prerequisite for contract renewal or promotion.**

As such, the Forensics track person typically strives for scholarship related to the practice of argumentation and debate. Such scholarship might include authoring or editing widely disseminated but not necessarily peer reviewed debate evidence, essays or books on debate theory or practice for college or high school coaches, critics, or competitors.

Professional activity would include presentations or postings of scholarly merit involving argumentation and debate at debate tournaments, conferences, or posted on online forums. Professional activity also includes holding elected major offices in regional or national forensics organizations.

Further, consideration should be given to peer selected judging in championship level debates at national level tournaments. Such judging ballots, posted materials, and tournament presentation outlines should be reviewed by other departmental members for their scholarly merit as it relates to advancing debate and argumentation theory and practice.

Advancement to Professor Status should result from demonstration of a significant, long term, and ongoing intellectual contribution to at least debate but also argument, rhetoric and/or media through professional activity as defined above for the forensics track but with a substantial number of excellent contributions or

with a select group of truly outstanding contributions demonstrating scholarly merit as it relates to advancing debate and argumentation theory and practice.