

Departmental Scholarship Guidelines  
Department of Classics, Whitman College  
May 7, 2024

The Department of Classics recognizes the importance of all the measures of excellence in professional activity listed in the Faculty Handbook. We agree that a candidate for tenure and/or promotion should demonstrate clear evidence of “engagement in the intellectual life of his/her field of study” beyond the campus of Whitman College. For a classicist, such engagement can take several forms.

**Peer-Reviewed Scholarship**

Of the six measures of professional activity listed in the faculty handbook, we consider the first, “research and writing . . . in peer-reviewed publications,” the most important evidence of a department member’s professional activity. Such publication will normally take the form of substantive articles in recognized peer-reviewed professional journals in the study of the Ancient Mediterranean world (including Classics, Ancient Mediterranean Religion, and/or related disciplines), and/or publication of books (see below). We also affirm the value of both single-author and co-authored work as evidence of scholarly activity.

Scholarly articles

Members of the Department of Classics should demonstrate a substantive program of research and publication. At the time of consideration for tenure, a faculty member should give evidence of significant progress in a coherent ongoing research program. Such evidence may include published articles or articles accepted for publication; some major journals in classics are notoriously slow in production and therefore the actual appearance of the article by the time of the tenure decision is less crucial than its acceptance in final form. Candidates for promotion to Full Professor should offer evidence of a coherent and substantive body of work, indicating progression beyond the accomplishments presented at the time of tenure.

The number of journals that are published only electronically is growing in classics and related humanities disciplines. We recognize the value of publication in online journals so long as articles submitted to those journals undergo rigorous peer-review. Since the number of articles and their length will differ from person to person depending on the precise subject matter and the nature of the topic under consideration, we do not wish to specify a number of articles or a page length for each article; the overall body of work should be considered individually.

Books

For some research areas and topics, a book is the most appropriate form of publication. When a topic lends itself to sustained development, we strongly encourage department members to write books and to place them with reputable academic publishers, but we do not consider a single-author monograph a necessary accomplishment, either at the point

of consideration for tenure or at the point of promotion to Full Professor. The overall scholastic quality and rigor of a colleague's body of work is more important than its form.

#### Invited contributions

For scholars who are already established in their careers, particularly those under consideration for promotion to Full Professor, an important subcategory of peer-reviewed publication is the invited contribution. An invitation to contribute an essay to an edited volume on a particular topic or to write an entry for a substantive reference work constitutes a form of peer review in itself, since such an invitation indicates that the scholar in question is recognized as a leading authority on the topic. So long as such invitations come from editors who are themselves recognized scholars and the eventual volumes are published by reputable publishers, the Department of Classics considers such publications to constitute an important form of peer-reviewed scholarship.

#### Edited volumes

Editing or co-editing a volume of essays is usually not sufficient evidence of peer-edited scholarly activity in itself, but offers supplementary evidence of a colleague's active professional involvement. We recommend that colleagues at the pre-tenure stage of their careers focus on producing peer-reviewed articles rather than undertaking the editorship of collected volumes. However, here as elsewhere the individual circumstances should be considered; in exceptional circumstances, an edited volume (especially one that includes an article by the candidate in question and has undergone outside peer review before its acceptance by a press) could constitute evidence of peer-edited scholarship.

#### Publications on pedagogy

While substantive contributions to scholarship in classics and related disciplines are the most important evidence of excellence in professional activity, we also recognize the value of peer-reviewed publications on pedagogy. Indeed, at times the boundaries between pedagogical and scholarly articles can be blurred, and articles on pedagogical issues published in major peer-reviewed journals can form an important part of a candidate's publication record.

#### **Non-peer-reviewed publication**

The Department of Classics also recognizes the value of publications that have not undergone peer review, although these will inevitably carry considerably less weight than will peer-reviewed publications. In particular, we consider book reviews a useful supplement to a candidate's scholarly output, but book reviews alone would not be sufficient evidence of excellence in professional activity. We would therefore caution colleagues who have not yet received tenure against devoting much of their time to book Reviews.

#### **Participation in Professional Organizations and Associations**

### Involvement in Professional Organizations

The Department of Classics considers involvement in professional organizations an important measure of professional activity outside the confines of the campus community. We would encourage colleagues at the pre-tenure stages of their careers in particular to maintain active memberships in the best-known professional organizations for those studying the Ancient Mediterranean (such as the Society of Classical Studies, the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest, and the Society of Biblical Literature) and in appropriate inter- or cross-disciplinary associations, and to attend at least one professional meeting each year when this is practical.

Involvement in professional organizations can take many forms, including but not limited to service on national committees and organization of conference panels or roundtables. Such activities demonstrate active engagement in the profession outside of Whitman's campus and contribute to the faculty member's national or international reputation.

### Conference Presentations and Lectures

Papers presented at the annual conferences of the SCS, CAPN, and SBL are accepted after a "blind" peer review process. The acceptance of a paper for presentation at those conferences therefore testifies to its scholarly quality, as do acceptances for inter- or cross-disciplinary conferences that use blind peer review of paper abstracts. Ideally, conference papers should lead to published articles, but we recognize that this is not always feasible or practical, and we therefore consider the presentation of papers at conferences as an important supplement to, though not a substitution for, publication in peer-reviewed journals.

Just as an established scholar is often invited to contribute an essay to an edited volume, so she or he may be invited to give a lecture at a conference or at another college or university. Such invited lectures indicate a significant reputation in the discipline and therefore should be considered important evidence of successful professional activity.

### Serving as a Referee for Peer-Reviewed Publications

An important category of professional activity, though one that is not always directly associated with a particular association or conference, is service as a referee for an article submitted to a peer-reviewed journal or for a book proposal. As is the case with invited publications and lectures, such service is most likely in the post-tenure stages of a faculty member's career, since it depends upon a sufficient national reputation and sufficient expertise in a subject area. The Department of Classics encourages its members to participate in this very important form of professional activity when they are invited to do so, and such participation constitutes evidence of excellence in professional activity. While all three categories of invited participation (publications, lectures, and service as a referee) constitute evidence of significant professional activity, the absence of such invitations should not be construed as indicating insufficient professional activity.

### **Grant Proposals**

Grant opportunities are very rare for classicists and we therefore do not expect members of our department to have an active record of writing proposals for external grants.

Should a department member have an opportunity to write such a proposal, however, we would certainly consider it evidence of professional activity.