

Professional Scholarship in the Context of SPFC

Although applications may vary, all programs in SPFC seek to integrate theory, research and practice, and contribute to the knowledge base in their particular fields. All programs seek to graduate students who combine holistic views of persons with evidentially-based interpretations and applications of behavior. Faculty members in marriage and family therapy or clinical psychology in particular seek to be and to train therapists and clinicians who are guided by values of sensitivity, respect, and curiosity, and who draw on scientific theory and research, general world knowledge, acute observational skills, and open, critical stances toward the mental health concerns they face.¹ Rigorous scholarship, in other words, defines not simply what one produces, but also how one practices.

SPFC's discipline-specific standards reflect two primary sources of criteria or guidelines: The SPU *Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 5.2.2, and the accreditation standards of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and the American Psychological Association. SPFC's standards are designed to meet both the expectations of the handbook and the professional performance necessary to achieve and maintain secondary accreditation in marriage and family therapy and clinical psychology. For reference, the accreditation standards and the departmental operationalizations are presented in the section following.

Accreditation Standards:

1. Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT). Committee on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Education (COAMFTE) Standard 130.01: "Program faculty will be actively engaged in scholarship through contributions at the local, regional, national, or international level."

The SPU Department of MFT operationalizes this standard as follows: "All full-time faculty and many of our part-time faculty [will] publish in guild journals and present their work at national conferences regularly." They will also maintain clinical practices and provide professional clinical supervision services.

2. Psychology. American Psychological Association Committee on Accreditation (APA CoA): "Psychological practice is based on the science of psychology, which, in turn, is influenced by the professional practice of psychology" (APA, 2003, CoA Self-Study Instructions for Doctoral Programs, Domain B.1.a., p. 7). Implicit in APA CoA guidelines are the expectations that current program faculty are to remain active in professional memberships, professional honors, publications (scholarly articles, books and/or book chapters), presentations to major professional or scientific groups, grants or training contracts, or other professional (peer-reviewed) activities.

¹ See Trierweiler, S.J., & Stricker, G. (1998). *The scientific practice of professional psychology*. New York, New York: Plenum Press.

- a. Department of Graduate Psychology² (DGP):** DGP operationalizes this standard as follows: “While neither APA nor our department has set a numerical standard for productivity in any of these areas of scholarship or professional activities, it [is] generally expected that [DGP] faculty [will] demonstrate some continuing activity in most of the domains noted by the APA Committee on Accreditation above.”
- b. Department of Organizational Psychology:** No secondary accreditation for graduate training is currently in effect in the field of industrial/organizational psychology; however, both our degree programs at SPU were designed in accordance with the *Guidelines for Education and Training at the Master and Doctoral Levels in Industrial/Organizational Psychology* prepared by the Education and Training Committee of the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP). Approved by the American Psychological Association, August 1999. SIOP is Division 14 of the American Psychological Association and an “Organizational Affiliate” of the American Psychological Society. Again, similar to DGP, it is expected that Organizational Psychology faculty members will demonstrate some continuing activity in most of the domains noted by the APA Committee on Accreditation (see above).
- c. Department of Psychology.** No secondary accreditation is relevant to undergraduate Psychology; however, our program at SPU attempts to meet the academic and experiential criteria delineated in *Principles for Quality Undergraduate Psychology Programs* of the American Psychological Association (1994), and “Common Goals for the Psychology Major” delineated in *Liberal Learning and the Arts and Sciences Major* by the Association of American Colleges (1990). Similar to DGP, it is expected that Psychology faculty members will demonstrate some continuing activity in most of the domains noted by the APA Committee on Accreditation (see above).

SPFC Discipline-Specific Standards for Promotion and Tenure: Professional Activity/Professional Scholarship

1.0 The basic principle underlying *professional activity* in SPFC is that tenure-track faculty members (.75 to full-time) will *engage annually with their respective guilds*.³

2.0 Professional activity relevant to SPFC includes professional scholarship, clinical practice, clinical supervision, consulting, supervising research, leading workshops, public speaking, reviewing manuscripts for professional journals, filling roles in professional organizations, and

² Note: Following submission of our self-study for secondary accreditation by APA and the subsequent site visit, the name of this department will be changed to the “Department of Clinical Psychology.”

³ Guilds include but are not limited to the professional disciplines in which faculty members earned their doctorates. Professional activities of faculty members may be multidisciplinary in focus and as such cross into multiple guilds.

so on.⁴ In addition to scholarship, consulting and clinical supervision and practice will be described in greater detail due to their unique place in a *scholarship of application* (see Section 2.3 below) and their unique relevance in a school offering professional graduate degrees.

2.1 Licensed faculty participating in clinical practice and providing clinical supervision

are engaged in professional activities of particular note. Nationally accredited programs require that their clinical faculties be licensed. External peer review is required to achieve and maintain licensure and/or clinical supervisor status. Supervision of clinicians or therapists-in-training carries a level of responsibility and liability unique in academia. Finally, maintaining licensure requires that an active clinical practice be sustained; this activity is above and beyond other responsibilities expected of all university faculty members.

2.2 Professional consultation services off-campus

are also professional activities requiring particular attention. Evidence of professional excellence in consultation is demonstrated (1) by publishing results of consultation work in peer-reviewed guild journals or scholarly texts; or (2) by providing evidence that the consultation work is a) based in current research, b) critical to the success of the client organization or individual, c) demonstrates application of high level skills and competencies, and d) places the faculty member in a managing or senior consultation role. In cases where the results of consultation work cannot be released in the public domain (e.g., where organizations claim proprietary rights to data resulting from consultations), it is the faculty member's responsibility to seek independent, external, and doctoral-level peer review of personally authored or co-authored in-house publications or work completed in the course of consultation.

2.3 Professional scholarship (defined primarily as research and writing) may be in any of the four domains derived from Boyer's *Scholarship Reconsidered* (1990)⁵ but with particular application to SPU (see *Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 5.2.2.2): (1) Discovery, (2) Teaching (i.e., research on teaching), (3) Application, and (4) Synthesis.

2.3.1 In terms of scholarly products, engagement with the guild needs to include some form of external peer review⁶ and includes but is not limited to the following:

⁴ Where these activities fit in the four performance criteria of the SPU *Faculty Handbook* (Section 5.2) will depend on specific circumstances. For example, consulting may be considered under *Scholarship* as a professional activity if the recipient is a professional or academic organization (e.g., participating on a site-visit team for an accreditation evaluation), or it may be *Service* in the community or church if the recipient is a local non-profit. Likewise, supervising research may be considered under *Teaching* if the recipient is a student, or it may fit under *Character and Congruence with the Mission* as evidence of collegiality if the recipient is an academic peer. It is the faculty member's prerogative and responsibility to place and justify the placement of professional activities under the performance criteria. The department chair and the SPFC faculty committee will evaluate how compelling the faculty member's case is, and this will then be communicated to the school dean and the Faculty Status Committee.

⁵ Boyer, E. L. (1990). *Scholarship reconsidered: Priorities of the professoriate*. Princeton, NJ: The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Princeton University Press.

⁶ Peer review is "external" in that it must be independent of the author. It may take on many forms, the most common and rigorous of which is multiple, independent and "blind" reviewers. Other forms may include multiple editors of a text, or editor review of proposals submitted in a competitive call for manuscripts. It is the faculty

- Principal author⁷ of peer reviewed scholarly presentations at national or international conferences valued by relevant guilds (or their equivalent).
- Principal author of published articles in scholarly, peer-reviewed guild journals.
- Principal author of chapters in editor and/or peer-reviewed scholarly texts.
- Principal author of editor and/or peer-reviewed scholarly texts.
- Principal author of research grants, if the grants obtained lead to scholarly productivity as described in the four bullets above.
- Principal author of published articles in scholarly, peer-reviewed journals or texts which “investigate the relationship of Christian theology and tradition to particular disciplinary issues” (*Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 5.2.2.2, Scholarship of Synthesis). One example is the *Journal of Psychology and Theology*.

In the above scholarly products, greater weight usually will be given to presentations at national or international conferences than to presentations at local or regional conferences, to published works than to conference presentations or grant applications, to published works in higher-tiered journals or texts,⁸ and to published works in journals or texts of greater clinical usefulness. It is the faculty member’s responsibility to present evidence for the rigor and/or professional value of the journal or other literary outlet, and the department chair and the SPFC faculty committee’s responsibility to evaluate how compelling the faculty member’s case is. This will then be communicated to the school dean and the Faculty Status Committee. Department needs will determine in part the relative mix of scholarly products sought in any designated period of time, with the department chair discussing expectations with faculty members through the annual PDP process.

2.3.2 Co-authorship is also valued and will contribute positively to the body of evidence for promotion or tenure. Co-authorship indicates that the faculty member is in productive collaborative roles with peers. Of even greater significance is when co-authorship is indicative of mentoring roles with colleagues or students. Generally, co-authorship will be given less weight than principal authorship; however, department or school needs may increase the weight of this role, as in the mentoring noted above.

member’s responsibility to present evidence for the rigor of the review process, and the department chair and the SPFC faculty committee’s responsibility to evaluate how compelling the faculty member’s case is. This will then be communicated to the school dean and the Faculty Status Committee.

⁷ Principal authorship implies a substantial amount of responsibility and work on a manuscript. Most commonly this is evidenced in the position of first author. It is the faculty member’s responsibility to present evidence of principal authorship when not first author of a multi-authored publication. The department chair and the SPFC faculty committee will evaluate how compelling the faculty member’s case is. This will then be communicated to the school dean and the Faculty Status Committee.

⁸ “Tiering” as used here refers to the level of scholarly rigor required of the author for inclusion in the publication of interest. Given the vast range of potential scholarly journals or texts in which SPFC faculty may publish, a comprehensive list is unrealistic.

2.3.3 Scholarly trajectory must be demonstrated by all faculty members. That is, they are expected to identify a research area or areas, in which they will (1) establish particular professional expertise and (2) contribute to the body of knowledge in the field. They are also expected to articulate a trajectory of scholarly research and writing projects into the future. This trajectory will be explicitly addressed in both the self evaluation of past performance and the development plan for future performance in the annual PDP process.

2.3.4 Minimum levels of scholarly productivity necessary for promotion in rank:

2.3.4.1 Promotion to Instructor normally occurs when Lecturers advance into the ranked faculty. A candidate for the rank of Instructor may be able to offer little significant evidence of accomplishment in the discipline. In such a case, the applicant may emphasize the steps being taken to begin professional development, and letters of support may evaluate the apparent potential of the individual as a scholar (*Faculty Handbook*, 1997, Section 6.3.2.1).

2.3.4.2 Promotion to Assistant Professor typically recognizes completion of appropriate terminal degrees. Candidates for this promotion must offer evidence of teaching effectiveness and of participation in appropriate service roles. If they have not yet built a significant record of scholarly production, they should evidence their commitment to this area of faculty responsibility in their PDP (*Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 6.3.1). Included in this evidence is a minimum of one publication prized by other scholars in the candidate's field outside the University.

2.3.4.3 Promotion to Associate Professor recognizes a faculty member as maturing in his or her role. Successful candidates for this promotion will demonstrate good performance in all three areas of faculty responsibility (teaching, scholarship, and service), and emerging strength in at least one of the areas (*Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 6.3.2). This promotion requires evidence of a minimum of two publications prized by scholars in the candidate's field outside the University.

2.3.4.4 Promotion to Professor designates a faculty member as an established teacher and scholar, who is recognized as such by peers in his or her field, and who serves as a model/mentor for others in the vocation. Successful candidates for this promotion will demonstrate strength in all three areas of faculty responsibility (teaching, scholarship, and service), with excellence in at least one of the areas (*Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 6.3.3). This promotion requires evidence of a minimum of three publications prized by scholars in the candidate's field outside the University, including a minimum of two since promotion or appointment to associate professor rank

2.3.4.5 Promotion to Professor Step 4 status. (a) P4 is more than simply an increase in salary from P3. P4 faculty members have demonstrated "meta-level"

roles on the faculty; that is, they are mentors of and models for faculty, and they are perceived by the faculty at large as deserving of such titles of esteem. It follows then that not all faculty members can expect to achieve P4 status.

(b) P4 faculty members are to be competent in all four areas evaluated in faculty performance (see *Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 5.2). In addition, P4 faculty members are to distinguish themselves as truly excellent in a subset of the four areas; this subset must include scholarship. Excellence in scholarship requires a "body" of work, a trajectory of steady productivity, and standards informed by relevant disciplinary colleagues and recognized by relevant guild(s) nationwide and/or internationally.

(c) P4 applications are to include PDP's, an updated vita, a letter of support from the department chair, and a brief review of accomplishments in each of the four areas since achieving P3 status. These materials should be accompanied by thoughtful and concise reflections on how the candidates perceive themselves in each of these four areas at this later point in their careers. What are these candidates' philosophies/theologies and values and accomplishments particularly relevant to this "most senior status" on our faculty?

(d) The committee to review P3 applicants is composed of P4 faculty members from across campus, not simply from a school or across schools but in "relevant" disciplines. This is in recognition that P4 status is a transcending one. That is, it is a "Distinguished University Professorship".

2.4 Minimum expectations for professional activity. All SPFC tenure-track faculty members must regularly engage in a variety of professional activities, such as those listed in Section 2.0. Regarding scholarly productivity in particular, all tenure-track faculty members must produce on average a conference presentation annually and a peer-reviewed publication every third year.

2.4.1 Faculty members with primary departmental assignments in graduate programs. The *Faculty Handbook*, 2004, Section 11.1.1.2 stipulates that faculty members with primary departmental assignments in graduate programs are "expected to devote more time to professional development activities" than faculty members with primary departmental assignments in the undergraduate program. In general for SPFC faculty members with primary departmental assignments in graduate programs, the minimum quantity of scholarly products is on average a conference presentation annually and a peer-reviewed publication every two years. Clinical supervision by licensed faculty members and/or consultation work may be applied to meet this higher standard of professional activity if it fulfills the criteria delineated in Section 2.1 or 2.2 above.

3.0 It is important to note that the preceding paragraphs describe minimums necessary for *eligibility* to be considered for advancement. They do not guarantee that advancement will be forthcoming. Advancement is based on evaluation of a faculty member's body of work and supporting evidences.

4.0 Beyond these minimums, expectations for individual faculty will vary according to her/his particular skills, interests, and program needs. These expectations will be discussed and made explicit with the department chair through the annual PDP process.