

**School of Nursing**

**CRITERIA FOR PROMOTION**

**TO**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (With Tenure)**

**PROFESSOR (With Tenure)**

**As approved by faculty vote on 09/23/2025**

This document describes some factors considered in decisions about promotion in the School of Nursing. Official University policies, procedures, and criteria for promotion and tenure are stated in several documents available through links at [http://www.purdue.edu/hhs/faculty/promotion\\_tenure.html](http://www.purdue.edu/hhs/faculty/promotion_tenure.html) and <https://www.purdue.edu/academics/faculty-affairs/promotion/index.html>

Criteria listed below are intended as useful information both for faculty seeking promotion and for members of the Department's Primary Committee and of the HHS Area Committee who are responsible for evaluating candidates' credentials. The criteria are not intended as a checklist for promotion. Instead, each of them will be evaluated in the context provided by the full record.

To be considered for promotion, a tenured or tenure-track faculty member should contribute to all mission areas appropriate to their position (in most cases, contributing to all three areas of discovery, learning, and engagement), and should meet minimum thresholds in each area. Candidates for promotion should demonstrate excellence and scholarly productivity in one area and strength in more than one area. For most candidates, the primary basis for promotion will be consistent with the basis on which the candidates were originally hired, which is excellence in discovery in most but not all cases. If consultations between the department head and members of the primary committee suggest that a faculty member's responsibilities at the time of consideration for promotion justify placing primary emphasis on another mission area, that other area could be the primary basis for promotion. In addition, all promotion candidates should provide evidence of their commitment to active and responsive mentorship, advising, and supporting the academic success of undergraduates, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral scientists, in their promotion documentation.

### ***Discovery/Research***

When evaluating the research accomplishments of promotion candidates, multiple criteria must be considered. The first and foremost criterion is the quality of a faculty member's research program. In addition, promotion candidates are expected to have a research record that demonstrates their intellectual independence as researchers. Also important for promotion consideration are the candidates' productivity, the impact of their discoveries on the research of others in the field, and their record of research funding. Finally, because the education and training of future researchers is a crucial part of the mission of Purdue University, promotion candidates are expected to provide active and effective research *mentoring* of the undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral scientists involved in their research programs.

When tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty are nominated for promotion primarily on the basis of their excellence in discovery, their record of research accomplishments is evaluated with respect to all of the criteria listed in the previous paragraph and described in more detail in the following paragraphs. When tenured or tenure-track faculty are nominated for promotion primarily on the basis of their excellence in learning or engagement, they are still expected to document their record of research accomplishments, and that record will be evaluated using the same criteria as for all other tenured/tenure-track faculty.

Candidates for promotion to associate professor should show evidence of developing national prominence, as evidenced by indicators that follow. For promotion to full professor, candidates must demonstrate evidence of established national and international recognition for their

intellectual leadership and unique contributions to the research field. It is expected that these candidates will have made major theoretical and/or methodological contributions. Those contributions may include publications that, for example, lay the foundation for future research in the field, integrate cumulative progress made in that field, or significantly influence the research programs of other scholars.

*Quality.* The quality of a candidate's research is indicated by significance of its contributions to the field, use of rigorous and/or innovative methodology, novelty and relevance of the findings, and potential to generate new directions for future research. Programmatic research that advances theory/knowledge, integrates key ideas, and/or addresses issues of significance to a field will be judged as being more relevant to the department's discovery mission than research that makes relatively minor contributions to existing theory/knowledge, or is focused on relatively specialized issues.

The quality of a candidate's research can also be judged, indirectly, from the quality of the journals or other publication outlets in which it is reported. A journal's quality is typically judged based on various indicators, none of which should be considered in isolation, such as a journal's impact factor, rejection rate, and ranking or reputation within the candidate's area of research. Journals that have only moderate rankings or rejection rates nonetheless may be judged as desirable outlets if they are the most appropriate journals for the candidate's research topic or intended audience.

Primary committee members will judge the quality of research and publication outlets by relying on several sources, including knowledge and expertise that they themselves possess, the opinions of primary committee members who are or have become knowledgeable about the candidate's topic(s) of research, and/or outside reviewers who have been selected, in part, because of their potential to provide an expert and unbiased evaluation of a candidate's record.

*Intellectual Independence.* All candidates for promotion should be able to demonstrate their intellectual independence in their program of research. Intellectual independence can be demonstrated in several ways, including serving as the Principal Investigator on externally-funded research projects, being the sole author or senior author of publications, and publishing research reports with co-authors who are undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral scientists who the candidate has mentored or co-mentored. When a candidate's record includes many publications co-authored with former mentors, the description in the promotion document of the candidate's research interests should clarify the candidate's significant and distinctive contributions to the research already completed and the research underway. On occasion, the department head may contact collaborators for clarification of relative roles on request of the primary committee. A strong promotion candidate will be identified by a distinct body of research unique to that individual's research program.

*Productivity.* In assessing productivity, faculty should be aware that primary emphasis will be given to publications in refereed journals. Research productivity is indicated by the total number of articles published and the rate at which articles have been published in appropriate publication outlets (i.e., reputable, peer-reviewed journals). Publications in other outlets (e.g., book chapters) may also be considered as indicators of productivity if they can be demonstrated to have an impact on par with journal articles. It is recognized that the candidate's research methodology may affect the rate of publication. Thus, candidates will be compared against successful peers in their area of specialization

who are at a comparable career stage. It is further recognized that the vagaries of the publication process may lead to spurts in publication, although there should not be significant gaps across years.

*Impact.* Candidates are expected to demonstrate the impact of their research program. When thinking about where to submit research reports for publication, faculty should consider both the quality of the journal and the visibility of the journal. Publications in widely read and respected journals will generally lead to greater impact.

Additional indicators of national and international recognition of a candidate's research program may also be used to evaluate its impact. These indicators include, but are not limited to:

- Editorial board memberships and editorships
- Memberships on grant panels
- Consultation with government agencies
- Invited lectures and talks in other educational institutions and invited addresses at academic conferences
- Significant local, state, national or international research awards
- Recognition of a candidate's research in the broader scientific community
- Impact on professional practice and, more generally, on society as a whole

As with the evaluation of quality, primary committee members will rely on multiple sources when evaluating the impact of a candidate's research program. In particular, outside reviewers will be asked to evaluate the impact of the candidate's research program.

*Research Funding.* External funding is strongly encouraged; applications for external funding are expected, although it is recognized that areas and programs of research may vary in terms of available funding. In addition to its ability to facilitate the conduct of research, external funding helps to demonstrate quality, impact, and intellectual independence. Consequently, the primary committee will look closely at the history of external funding when examining the case for promotion. However, the absence of external funding when coupled with an otherwise excellent scholarly record will not preclude a recommendation for promotion and the presence of funding when coupled with a weaker record of productivity, quality, etc., will not guarantee it.

Competitive internal grants are indicative of the quality of the candidate's research.

*Mentoring.* Candidates for promotion are expected to have demonstrated their excellence in mentoring others in discovery or research activities. Guidance of undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral scientists in research that results in co-authored presentations at regional or national conferences, and co-authored publications in refereed journals and/or other important publication outlets, can serve as one indicator of this form of mentoring. Another indicator of success in mentoring is the receipt of research awards by mentored undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral scientists.

### ***Learning/Teaching***

Almost all tenured and tenure-track faculty in the School of Nursing seek promotion based on discovery. For some tenure-track and tenured faculty, a nomination for promotion based on accomplishments in promoting student learning may be warranted. Successful candidates will be expected to demonstrate excellence in the scholarship of teaching and learning in nursing education.

Standards of such excellence are similar to those used to evaluate the standards of excellence in discovery. Specifically, the candidate will be expected to demonstrate a record of refereed publications on teaching, be developing (for promotion to associate professor) or have developed (for promotion to full professor) a national or international reputation on teaching or instruction and have developed instructional innovations that have been adopted by other institutions. Examples of such innovations may include a widely adopted and well-regarded textbook introducing a new framework, publications in pedagogical journals, instructional materials or media with wide adoption, or products that enhance student learning.

In all cases, the impact of the individual's work should be well-documented, considering that it will serve as the primary focus of review.

All tenured or tenure-track faculty who are candidates for promotion, even when being nominated for achievements other than teaching and learning, must present evidence of strength in teaching that effectively promotes student learning. Strength in teaching and learning will be evaluated on the basis of performance in classroom settings and contexts beyond classroom settings including online instruction. Excellence in teaching and learning will be evaluated on this basis, as well as on the basis of demonstrated excellence in the scholarship of teaching and learning. In addition to the indicators described below, rewards, honors, and other forms of recognition for teaching or mentoring can demonstrate a candidate's strength in teaching and learning.

#### *Classroom teaching and contributions to curricula*

In the School of Nursing, successful candidates for promotion are expected to have a strong record of teaching undergraduate courses and/or graduate courses. There may be cases that justify greater involvement with one group of students relative to the other; such cases should be evaluated in terms of the candidate's contribution to the broader teaching and mentoring mission of the department, college, and university.

Successful candidates for promotion are also expected to make significant contributions to departmental course offerings. These contributions may be demonstrated through a range of indicators, including, but not limited to, the number and variety of courses taught; innovativeness of course content, peer or expert evaluations of teaching, when available; student evaluations, interpreted cautiously because of published evidence of bias in such evaluations; contributions in course or curriculum development to address needs or gaps in undergraduate or graduate education, and preparation of instructional materials. In addition, successful candidates can show their commitment to active and responsive mentoring, advising, and support of students by making efforts to increase the relevance of course material to student success in research or professional activities.

#### *Teaching and mentoring beyond classroom settings.*

Indicators of undergraduate student mentoring and support may include, but are not limited to, leading study abroad and other experiential or service-learning programs; serving as a mentor in campus programs; participating as an advisor to student organizations; supporting students in co-curricular and other activities; or engaging in efforts to improve the retention and success of students.

Indicators of effective advising, training, and mentoring of graduate students or postdoctoral scientists may include personalized training efforts (e.g., supervising internships), leading professional workshops on topics that pertain to success in an academic or research career (e.g.,

obtaining research funding, adopting new analytic techniques, increasing teaching effectiveness), and serving as a chair or member of a graduate student committee (e.g., masters, DNP, and PhD)

### *Engagement/Service*

Almost all tenured and tenure-track faculty in the School of Nursing seek promotion based on discovery. However, individuals who are hired because of their translational research or the broad impact of their scholarship may seek promotion based on excellence in engagement.

Excellence in engagement may be demonstrated through developing and implementing practices that improve people's lives, communities, and societies, which may target diverse populations and societies based on the candidate's endeavors and specialties. Indicators of such impact are likely to be derived from contexts beyond academic disciplines.

Given Purdue's land-grant mission, it is expected that tenured/tenure-track faculty candidates will endeavor to disseminate their research findings beyond scholarly publications, for example, by contributing to articles written about their research in national newspapers and magazines, giving talks to community or lay audiences, etc. In addition, all tenured/tenure-track faculty are expected to contribute to service activities that sustain campus units and professional organizations.

With regard to service, the Primary Committee expects tenured and tenure-track faculty to share in the support functions that are necessary to sustain academic units, research institutions, professional organizations, and funding agencies. Service to the department involves such activities as participating in the work of departmental committees and providing support for the department's undergraduate and graduate programs. Participation in comparable college- and university-level activities is also expected. Service to professional or governmental organizations can involve holding an official position or acting in other ways as a leader in state, national, or international societies.

Because the department is committed to facilitating the development of faculty, assistant professors are expected to do only a modest amount of service activities, as compared with associate and full professors. Candidates for full professor should demonstrate leadership in service to the department, university, and profession. However, because service is not the primary responsibility of any faculty member in this department, it is not expected that promotion will be based primarily on such service activities.

Tenure-track or tenured faculty being considered for promotion based on their excellence in engagement would be expected to demonstrate a record of highly impactful engagement-related activities in which they played a crucial role. These activities might involve a partnership with a specific community or organization outside the university in which there is a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge. For example, these faculty might provide evidence of developing and implementing evidence-based programs, interventions, or techniques that have positively affected the quality of life of people in a community. Alternatively, they might have formed partnerships with community, government, or public sector organizations that resulted in new laws or policies that improved people's lives, or they have been a leader in organizations that promoted substantial changes in professional practice nationally and/or internationally.

The impact of a candidate's engagement activities should be demonstrated through relevant publications (e.g., technical reports written in collaboration with community or other partners; laws, policies, or standards for licensing). Given the difference between Discovery and Engagement, these publications would be qualitatively different from the research reports of most other faculty in the

School of Nursing.