

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
STATEMENT ON SIGNIFICANT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The Department of Political Science values excellent teaching, sustained and high-quality scholarship, and effective leadership and service within and beyond the College community. Below are examples of activities the department considers to be professionally significant in each of these three domains. These lists are intended to be reasonably comprehensive and representative, but they may not be exhaustive.

Excellent Teaching

Teaching has always been of first importance in the professional lives of St. Olaf faculty members. The activities in this domain demonstrate commitment to, and achievement of, excellent performance in the education of undergraduate students in Political Science courses.

Significant professional activities:

- Offering high-quality courses in Political Science or related interdisciplinary programs as evidenced by:
 - Challenging, imaginative, and appropriate instruction (syllabi, assignments, lectures, discussions, feedback on student performance, etc.);
 - Favorable student and alumni feedback (through course evaluations, departmental surveys, assessment instruments, exit interviews, etc.)
 - Favorable peer reviews of teaching
- Enhancing the quality of one's teaching through:
 - Development of new courses
 - Significant revision of existing courses
 - Integration of innovative teaching methods into existing courses
 - Participation in teaching-related faculty development programs

Sustained and High-Quality Scholarship

Effective teaching needs the support of quality scholarship. One of the best ways to help our students develop their capacity for original thinking, rigorous research, and competent writing is to engage in these activities ourselves. Doing so will not only inspire our students but enrich our discipline.

Below we identify the domains of professional activity we consider appropriate to our department and the types of activities that we consider significant.

Domains of scholarly activity appropriate to the department

- Scholarly contributions to the discipline of political science
- Scholarly contributions to related interdisciplinary fields (e.g., area studies, public policy, public administration, American studies, women's studies, environmental studies)
- Contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning
- Contributions to the scholarship of engagement
- Contributions to public or non-profit agencies using tools of inquiry that characterize political science

Of these domains, we believe contributions to disciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship (the first and second domains above) to be of first importance, but we also affirm the value of the remaining domains. In order to secure tenure or promotion, a faculty member's scholarship must include contributions to the discipline of political science or related interdisciplinary fields.

Significance of specific activities

The most common forms of scholarly activity among political scientists, in approximate order of significance, are listed below. The full significance of any individual scholarly activity is determined, not simply by its position on the list, but also by the extent of peer review required for publication, participation, or presentation; the academic prestige of the sponsoring institution (publisher, granting agency, etc.); any honors or awards received for the activity; other indicators of impact on the discipline or on public life; and/or the size of the budget supporting the activity

- Publishing books and monographs
- Publishing articles and essays in refereed professional journals
- Publishing book chapters in edited volumes
- Preparing research-based reports or other significant papers for a public agency or a non-governmental organization
- Editing books or journals
- Publishing book chapters or articles in non-refereed scholarly venues
- Contributing to professional organizations and associations
 - Presenting papers
 - Leading workshops
 - Serving as panelist or discussant
- Publishing book reviews, research notes, and other more limited articles and essays
- Acquiring grants in support of scholarly research
- Reviewing book and article manuscripts for publication

Effective Leadership and Service

While service to the College community and beyond is expected of all St. Olaf faculty members, those in the discipline of Political Science can make distinctive contributions to the public square. We expect to serve as leaders both on campus and in the wider community beyond St. Olaf. These experiences enrich our understanding of politics and permit us to bring our disciplinary perspectives to bear on matters of significance to our institution, to higher education, and to public life.

Significant professional activities:

- Serving in a leadership capacity in a professional association (holding office, coordinating events, etc.)
- Serving in a leadership capacity on campus (chairing a major committee, securing grants to support institutional initiatives or innovations, chairing a department or interdisciplinary program, etc.)
- Providing leadership or significant service to public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, or other entities with public significance
- Serving as a member of standing or ad hoc College committees
- Contributing to print or broadcast media

Approved by the Political Science Department on November 19, 2007