

**Statement of Significant Professional Activity**  
**Department of Asian Studies**  
(Revised November 2001)

The Department of Asian Studies emphasizes excellent teaching and the professional engagement that enhances teaching. Because the department is by definition interdisciplinary, the best way for us to think about scholarship is in the interdependent and interdisciplinary way defined by Ernest L. Boyer in *Scholarship Reconsidered*. In this book Boyer has challenged the American academy to put greater emphasis on the interdependence of disciplines and the interdependence of knowledge and action: “Now is the time, we conclude, to build bridges across the disciplines, and connect the campus to the larger world. Society has a stake in how scholarship is defined” (p. 57). We will use Boyer’s classification of four interdependent types of scholarship to define significant professional activity: “the scholarship of discovery; the scholarship of integration; the scholarship of application; and the scholarship of teaching” (Boyer, p. 16). These four categories reconceptualize the three areas defined in the Faculty Manual as important for tenure and promotion: teaching, research and service.

Every member of the Asian Studies Department is expected to show excellent teaching and a commitment to developing the Asian Studies program. The higher the rank, the greater the expectation.

The Department assumes that a candidate for tenure as an assistant professor should show evidence of excellence in teaching and significant contributions to the Asian Studies program, as well as promise in more than one of the four categories listed above. While a candidate for tenure only may not have many publications or presentations, he or she should be active in the profession and have significant work in progress, suitable for submission to outside evaluators.

A candidate for promotion to associate professor should show evidence of excellence in teaching and significant contributions to the Asian Studies program, as well as contributions in more than one of the categories listed above. The publication of several articles (such as three articles in peer-reviewed journals), a book, a translation or other major scholarly achievement would normally be expected.

A candidate for promotion to full professor is held to a higher standard than a candidate for promotion to associate professor. The candidate should show evidence of excellence in teaching and significant contributions to the Asian Studies program, as well as contributions in more than one of the categories listed above. The candidate is expected to have made significant scholarly contributions since his or her last promotion.

**A. Scholarship of Teaching**

As Boyer says, “teaching, at its best, means not only transmitting knowledge, but transforming and extending it as well.”

1. Excellent, creative teaching
2. Publication of articles on pedagogical issues in Asian Studies.

3. Publication of teaching materials in printed or electronic form.
4. Development of new teaching materials or techniques.
5. Getting teaching-related grants for self or department.
6. Consultant service to language or area study programs at other colleges or secondary schools.

### **B. Scholarship of Discovery**

The scholarship of discovery, says Boyer, “contributes not only to the stock of human knowledge but also to the intellectual climate of a college or university.” This scholarship includes:

1. Publication of scholarly books, monographs, articles.
2. Publication of translations as books or articles.
3. Presentation of scholarly papers at the meetings of professional societies.
4. Directing or performance of musical recitals or juried exhibit of works of art.
5. Obtaining grants for research, publication or other projects.

### **C. Scholarship of Integration**

The scholarship of integration is “making connections across the disciplines, placing the specialties in a larger context, illuminating data in a revealing way, often educating nonspecialists, too.” This means “serious, disciplined work that seeks to interpret, draw together, and bring new insight to bear on original research” (pp. 18-19). This scholarship includes:

1. Publication of synthetic or interdisciplinary books, monographs, articles.
2. Presentation of papers integrating or synthesizing research in a field.
3. Obtaining grants for integrative research, publication or other projects.

### **D. Scholarship of Application**

Earnest Boyer: “the application of knowledge moves toward engagement as the scholar asks, ‘How can knowledge be responsibly applied to consequential problems? How can it be helpful to individuals as well as institutions?’” As faculty at a liberal arts college, we seek to contribute to a critical understanding of Asia beyond the classroom to the college and larger community.

1. Developing the Asian Studies program, including conversation tables, film series, course development, grants, internships, programs for the campus such as lecture series or performances by outside groups.
2. Leadership and advising in international programs.
3. Providing leadership on campus committees.
4. Serving as an officer in academic organizations.
5. Presentations to general audiences about Asian topics.
6. Teaching about Asia beyond the campus: public schools, Elderhostel, etc.
7. Advising student and community organizations.