

Department of Education
Statement of Significant Professional Activity

The following statement outlines the criteria used by the Department of Education for Tenure and Promotion consideration.

Masterful **teaching** is vital to a program of professional education because of the challenge to teach about teaching while modeling good teaching. Instruction that incorporates innovative strategies and demonstrates best practices are essential characteristics for teacher education faculty. The quality of teaching in education courses includes a broad range of state-of-the-art techniques and strategies. It is incumbent upon the instructor to consistently provide pedagogical insight and to create opportunities for students to reflect upon and think critically about the field of education and their role in it.

Research, and the activities that draw upon it, is fundamental to the field of education. Publishing books, chapters, book reviews, professional journal articles, and reviewing manuscripts for publication are vital professional activities. Participating in research activities directly impacts teaching and scholarship. Searching, learning, creating, thinking, feeling and building result in the individual's professional growth as well as the promotion and improvement of the teacher education program and the College.

Scholarship and other professional activities compliment good teaching. Professional activities include incorporating innovative teaching, developing new courses and creative course units, and participating in leadership roles in workshops and institutes. Such scholarly activities are appropriate when they demonstrate an awareness and understanding of current developments in education and when prepared and presented effectively. Professional education programs involve both theoretical and experiential concerns, which elevates the importance of faculty in consulting, serving as program evaluators or referees, participating in programs of teacher improvement, and presenting papers at national and state forums. In addition, writing and securing major grants for educational study, practice and programs, and being involved in the activities supported by the grants are strong components of professional development and contributions for education faculty.

Service to the profession, the College, and community is also a vital area for professional activity. Examples of service include holding office(s) in professional societies; providing leadership in professionally recognized programs at national, state and local levels; serving on review committees/teams for accreditation of public/private schools and colleges/universities; appearing before legislative and state board bodies; and participating in national and state professional meetings. Contributing to the College through committee work and participating in College activities and functions are an inherent responsibility of Education Department faculty.

Faculty members in St. Olaf's Teacher Education Program are recognized as having special talents, abilities, and experiences that fit the stated needs of the program. Whereas the Faculty Manual and this document may serve as guidelines, each person's expertise and experiences must be individually considered for contribution to the program, the College and the profession.