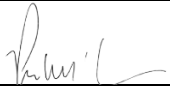




College	College of Public Service and Community Solutions	
Unit	School of Social Work	
Document	Criteria for Promotion of Research Faculty SWK 510-03	
Approved by the faculty	Yes	Date: 4/3/2018
Reviewed by the dean	Yes	Date: 4/19/2018

Provost office approval

	October 24, 2025
Patricia Friedrich, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel	Date

Office of the University Provost

300 East University Drive
P.O. Box 877805 Tempe, AZ 85287-7805
(480) 965-4995 Fax: (480) 965-0785
<https://provost.asu.edu/>

PURPOSE: To Define Criteria for Promotion of Research Faculty

SOURCES: School of Social Work Faculty

POLICY: Promotion of Research Faculty

I. Promotion of Research Faculty

Research faculty will be considered for promotion to the ranks of Research Associate Professor or Research Professor using the same policies and procedures as those used for evaluating the research record for tenure-line faculty seeking promotion. If a Research Faculty engages in teaching formal classes, the teaching record will be evaluated using the same criteria as for tenure-line faculty with regard to the quality of teaching, but not the quantity of courses taught. The expectation for service is minimal and described in the preceding sections. Because the nature of research faculty duties and responsibilities may vary considerably depending on the particular project(s) for which the research faculty was hired, the quality of the performance in these areas will also be taken into account in promotion reviews.

II. Promotion from Assistant to Associate Research Professor

Research Faculty are responsible for or oversee a significant area of research or scholarship (as per ACD 505-02), therefore, assessment of promotion should focus primarily on the scholarship of the candidate.

Social work is a professional discipline and as such the primary audience for its scholarship is practitioners and policy makers. Thus, social work scholarship should directly or indirectly benefit client groups served by social work and social welfare. Scholarship is defined more broadly than published research to include creative, intellectual work based on a high level of expertise, the significance of which can be evaluated by one's peers and which is consistent with the mission of the school and college. In addition to published research it includes applications for funding and published writings that are theoretical or conceptual as well as applications to practice or policy. However, applications for funding will not substitute for published work. Two noteworthy factors influence social work scholarship: (1) the multidisciplinary nature of the field and broad range of topics investigated by social work and social welfare scholars and (2) the rapid proliferation of professional journals in the last two decades. Many social work scholars, in addition to publishing in traditional social work practice and social policy journals, also publish in specialty journals in their areas of expertise, such as health, mental health, children and families, gerontology, and substance abuse.

III. Promotion Criteria

For promotion from Assistant to Associate Research Professor, a candidate must demonstrate an excellent record of a creative, independent and productive program of research and scholarship. Candidates who have published with mentors from graduate school should show evidence in their subsequent publications that they have achieved intellectual independence from these mentors. An excellent record for promotion to Associate Research Professor can be defined as one characterized by:

(1) A body of scholarship that has been steadily produced and forms a coherent whole, maximizing the likelihood that the faculty member will have both a noticeable impact in his/her area of expertise and an emerging national reputation in that area; and

(2) A strong record of high-quality publications in peer-reviewed professional journals within social work and/or in the candidate's specialty areas that have had a positive impact on the field. The candidate is required to provide evidence of the impact of the journals in which the candidate's publications appear. This can be an impact score, acceptance rate, or other measure of impact; and

(3) The candidate's record as sole or first author on a number of the peer-reviewed publications demonstrates the candidate's ability to take full or primary responsibility for effectively disseminating high-quality scholarship; and

(4) The initiation of post-dissertation research that has funding potential and demonstrates that the candidate's scholarship trajectory is well-established by the time of the promotion review; and

(5) National and/or International conference presentations in social work or in the candidate's area of expertise, allowing the opportunity to disseminate research findings in a timely manner and interact with scholars doing related work. However, conference presentations are not a substitute for published works.

Another indicator of an excellent record of scholarship is evidence of the attempt to obtain extramural funding for research as demonstrated by one or more submitted grant application(s), provided funding is available in the candidate's area of research. The record may also include other scholarship such as invited or refereed book chapters, and other types of publications, research or scholarly monographs, edited books, and research reports.

IV. Promotion from Associate to Full Research Professor

Research Faculty are responsible for or oversee a significant area of research or scholarship (as per ACD 505-02), therefore, assessment of promotion should focus primarily on the scholarship of the candidate.

In addition to meeting the criteria for scholarship necessary to achieving the rank of Associate Research Professor, candidates for promotion to rank of Research Professor should have a record characterized by:

(1) A sustained, well-established, focused record of research and scholarship that is progressively more sophisticated and influential on the field and that has made a significant contribution to knowledge in the candidate's area(s) of expertise; and

(2) The attainment of a national reputation in one's specialty area(s) as evidenced by awareness by other top scholars in the candidate's field of scholarship and expertise in these area(s), and/or through frequent scholarly citations of the candidate's work; and

(3) High quality published works in the form of scholarly books and/or work that appears in peer-reviewed journals within social work and/or in relevant specialty journals; these published works should show evidence of being socially-embedded, use-inspired and have a demonstrated impact on the field; and

(4) Funded research that supports the candidate's area of scholarship, provided funding is available in the candidate's area of research, is highly regarded.

**V. Submission of Materials
Procedures**

(1) In accordance with the academic personnel schedule, faculty members requesting review for promotion will submit their materials to the Director's Office as outlined in the Process Guide for Career-Track Faculty Promotion