

Scholarship Statement: Science

Mount St. Mary's University

February 7, 2008 (addition of Env. Sci. Major)

The Science Department Scholarship Statement:

As a Department, we have developed the following statement regarding the nature of scholarly activity in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Environmental Science. In addition, we offer our judgment on the expectations we consider appropriate for our faculty with respect to adequate scholarly development for tenure and promotion.

The tradition in our disciplines is to define scholarship first and foremost as research activities that result in the development of new knowledge in the areas of our degrees and that lead to a peer reviewed product. Given the primary importance of teaching here at the Mount, we also view the development of new teaching techniques or pedagogical innovations that result in a peer reviewed product to be significant scholarship as well. Most frequently, peer reviewed products are publications in a journal or book, but invited presentations at professional meetings will meet these criteria as well. Given the nature of our institution, active student involvement in this scholarship is highly valued as a major component in the training of the next generation of researchers, teachers, and medical professionals.

Here at the Mount, we encourage an active intellectual life outside of the classroom as one means of ensuring continued excellence in the classroom. Certainly, scholarship as defined above is a clear indicator of such an active intellectual life. There are, however, other professional activities that indicate this as well. Among these are most presentations at professional meetings, successful grantsmanship, serving as a reviewer for papers/grant applications, consulting activities, mentoring student research projects, and curricular innovation. Worthwhile in their own right, these activities are also important as public indicators of the sustained effort that underlies and predicates traditional peer reviewed scholarship in the sciences. We therefore consider these activities valuable components in the scholarly development of our faculty and important contributors to the quality of teaching and learning.

Amended January 12, 2009

Scholarship Statement: Science

Mount St. Mary's University

With respect to tenure and promotion, it should be noted that the special resource needs and time constraints intrinsic to scholarship and professional development in the sciences place limits on the pace of scholarly productivity in our Department. While we fully expect traditional peer-reviewed scholarship over time, we find useful a notion of scholarly effectiveness that puts special emphasis on how well the faculty have used their scholarly and professional work to promote the mission of the Department and the University. Thus, in evaluating scholarly development we value: the involvement of students in our research through independent study projects and Honors projects; the efforts invested in developing a consistent program of original research; and the public outlets for our work in addition to traditional peer reviewed publications.

Date	Signature
5-13-9	
5/15/2009	Department Chair 
8/27/09	Vice President for Academic Affairs  President