

Scholarship Statement: Communications

Mount St. Mary's University

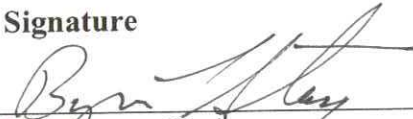
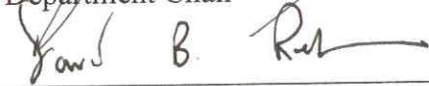
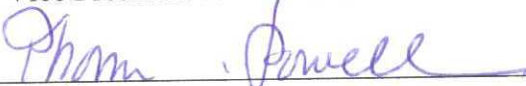
Communication Studies Department

The task of defining scholarship and professional work for our department is complicated because the department includes different fields (variously called rhetoric, composition, journalism, media studies, speech, and communications) and because those fields encompass both practice and theory in what we would consider professional intellectual work. We have sought to respect all those traditions and yet to provide for rigorous evaluation of whatever work is to be included in deliberations on tenure and promotion. This statement on scholarship and professional work in the fields of rhetoric, composition, journalism, and communications draws on statements promulgated by these professional organizations: the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, the Council of Writing Program Administrators, and the Modern Language Association.

We assume that "scholarship" contributes to the knowledge and understanding of a discipline or professional area. Such scholarship may be of three types. Traditional scholarship involves original research, makes an original contribution to a discipline's base of knowledge, and is published in a format subject to peer review. At least some traditional scholarship is necessary to receive tenure. Secondary scholarship may reinterpret primary scholarship for a more general audience, including an audience of teachers or other practitioners. The department also recognizes the scholarship of teaching, which means bringing traditional and secondary scholarship into the classroom in a meaningful way. This includes encouraging students to engage in scholarly research and faculty to research their own practices to help enable students to become scholars.

Another type of publication that is not scholarship but is appropriate for members of the department is the practice of the types of nonfiction prose writing we teach. We expect that such writing would be in the forms we teach and would be published in juried, high quality publications.

Professional work may also include professional service: work that contributes to the functioning of an academic discipline or professional area but does not make an original contribution to knowledge. This may include, for example, serving as an officer in a professional or academic organization, editing a journal, maintaining an internet discussion list, or organizing a conference.

Date	Signature
1-22-09	 Department Chair
1/25/2009	 Vice President for Academic Affairs
1/28/2009	 President