

Evaluation of Scholarly Activity and Research
Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice
Old Dominion University
February 24, 2014, Revised October 18, 2022

According to *ODU Faculty Handbook*, “each department should establish, with the approval of the dean and the provost and vice president for academic affairs, a clear statement of the criteria for evaluating scholarly activity and research in that department [and] the statement should undergo periodic review by the department” (Evaluation of Scholarly Activity and Research A.); “All evaluations of the faculty member's research and scholarly activity, at every stage of the tenure process, should be guided by these criteria” (Tenure IV.B.5). This document provides the said statement of criteria for the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice. Upon approval, these criteria will be used in the department P&T Committee and Chair's annual evaluations and to aid faculty seeking tenure and promotion.

The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice recognizes a wide range of scholarship in terms of theoretical orientation, methodological approach, subject matter, and purpose, as well as the number and authorship position. Scholarly productivity is often an outgrowth of a faculty member's tenure status, role in the department, administrative assignments and teaching load and hence will vary from faculty to faculty. The value of scholarly products follows in accordance with university policy.

1. Publications: recognized publications include: journal articles, law review articles, books, edited books, including peer reviewed textbooks, and chapters in edited books. It is recognized that the quality of publications will vary across an individual's record of publications. Quality of publications is important, however; it is expected that journal publications are from scholarly journals and books are from publishers that are widely recognized for scholarly and/or pedagogical works. The quality of publications is also recognized by the journal's tier placement or impact factor, or the book publisher's reputation in the field. Publications by any predatory outlet are not acceptable. To date there is no standardized definition of what a predatory journal or publisher is, however, there are a few features that are common across definitions. Predatory outlets are those that lack transparency or otherwise use deceptive practices related to operations, including hidden publication fees, misrepresenting editorial boards, and lack of high-quality peer review. More information about how to avoid publishing research in these outlets is available through ODU Libraries (<https://guides.lib.odu.edu/publish/predatory>). Upon verification, such publications will be excluded from evaluation. Faculty engaged in research will know and be able to explain the quality, reputation, and significance of their publication outlets. Because the disciplines of sociology and criminal justice value collaborative research, the order of authorship is not the primary criteria on which merit is judged, however faculty must be able to demonstrate their contributions to the work and/or that they have their own research agenda. Over time, citation counts are acceptable measures of a faculty member's or a particular publication's impact on the field.

2. Presentations at professional meetings: scholarly presentations at professional meetings include international, national, regional, and state meetings, conferences, and symposiums.

3. Grant and contracts: Faculty are encouraged to seek research funding. While the successful award and completion of externally funded grants that fund graduate students and provide overhead and/or purchased release time are those most highly desired, the Department values grants awarded from all sources. Active seeking grant opportunities and submitting grant applications are also valued with the most desired being those that fund graduate students and defray overhead expenses and/or fund purchased release time.

4. Other publications: Published book reviews, encyclopedia entries, technical reports, and journal editorships may be considered, but are not as equally valued as the recognized publications in category 1 above. They are normally considered to be service. The Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice will consider other scholarly activity and research upon request by faculty members and if needed will review and update the criteria for evaluating scholarly activity and research.

5. Ethics: The department is guided by the Code of Ethics of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and the American Society of Criminology (ASC), and all faculty are expected to adhere to these ethical guidelines in their professional responsibilities and conduct.

Reviewed & approved
Austin Agho
10/26/2022