

Guidelines and Criteria for Promotion to Distinguished Professor

School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering

January 22, 2021



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1/25/2021

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**DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR**  
**School of Polymer Science & Polymer Engineering**  
**January 22, 2021**

The title of Distinguished Professor shall be awarded only to one who, already holding the rank of professor for five or more years, continues to excel in teaching and scholarly activity at The University of Akron at a level significantly beyond expectations for the rank of professor.

**Criteria for Distinguished Professors**

The purpose for establishing these criteria is to assure that uniform standards of performance are equitably applied to all applicants for Distinguished Professor. The applicants from the School of Polymer Science & Polymer Engineering (SPSPE) are to be evaluated in three areas, teaching, scholarly activity and service, where scholarly activity in the SPSPE is focused on research. The applicant must clearly excel in both teaching and research, and have respectable contributions in service.

The Review Committee must seek outside corroboration and confirmation for the level of the accomplishments of the applicant for Distinguished Professor. The SPSPE Distinguished Professor Review Committee shall use prudent judgment and the following criteria to arrive at their recommendations. The procedures to be used by this Committee are specified in the collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

**Teaching**

The applicant shall have outstanding contributions in teaching as determined by one or more of the following accomplishments:

- Achieved teaching performance that is markedly above the average of the teaching performance of all the full professors in the School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering.
- Guided masters and doctoral graduates who have distinguished themselves by their research publications, academic positions, or industrial responsibilities.
- Created curricula, courses, course content, or laboratories that are clearly characterized as innovative and extraordinary.
- Other distinguished teaching related activities.

**Research**

The applicant shall have outstanding contributions in research as demonstrated by one or more of the following accomplishments:

- Written refereed journal publications that are significant and original contributions in the discipline of the applicant.
- Obtained consistent external funding with which the applicant has been able to achieve significant results as measured by refereed journal publications, patents, Ph.D./MS students graduated, and postdocs mentored.
- Achieved peer recognition for research achievements by serving as a reviewer, by being selected for review panels or editorial advisory boards, or by being elected to the National Academy of Engineering, or the National Academy of Science, or to fellow rank in the professional discipline of the applicant.
- Demonstrated leadership skills that have brought a research unit at the department, college, or university level to a state of being highly regarded, competitive, and productive and having faculty and staff that are characterized by a high level of morale, motivation, dedication, and scholarly productivity.
- Other distinguished research related activities.

**Service**

Service is expected of all faculty members. The applicant for the title of Distinguished Professor is expected to show substantial contributions in service at the school, college, university and/or local community levels as well as to his/her profession.

**Professional Conduct**

The applicant must have demonstrated collegiality with others and be a role model for faculty members.

**Distinguished Professor Review Committee**

All faculty members eligible according to the CBA will serve on the SPSPE's Distinguished Professor Review Committee.