



**Office of the Dean**

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**DATE:** July 26, 2013

**TO:** William M. Sherman  
Sr. Vice President, Provost and C.O.O.

**FROM:** Chand Midha  
Dean

**RE:** Distinguished Professor Guidelines and Criteria

The attached guidelines have been approved by the faculty of the Department of Psychology on December 14, 2012.

I have approved all attached guidelines and criteria.

If you concur, we ask that you also approve the guidelines and criteria.

Department Chair or Faculty Representative

4/19/13  
Date

Dean

8/6/2013  
Date

Senior Vice President, Provost  
and Chief Operating Officer

8.7.13  
Date

July 26, 2013

**Department of Psychology**  
**Criteria for Consideration at the Level of Distinguished Professor**

**Introduction.** The title of *Distinguished Professor* is an honor bestowed on a faculty member based on professional accomplishments over his or her career. This honor is predicated primarily on evidence of exemplary achievements in scholarship and teaching as recognized by members of the national and international scientific communities, and secondarily, supported by a reputation of distinction at The University of Akron. Importantly, a faculty member's reputation at the national and/or international level must supersede his or her level of recognition at University of Akron.

**I. Eligibility.** A candidate is eligible for nomination by the department after serving at the rank of professor at The University of Akron for no less than 5 years.

**II. Criteria.** The candidate must first demonstrate excellence in scholarship, having established a record of unique and consistent contributions recognized as advancing his or her discipline throughout the years of his or her career. Excellence in the advancement of student knowledge through teaching and related activities is a subordinate albeit essential indicator of professional distinction.

- a. Quality of Scholarship:** The candidate must have maintained a vigorous nationally and internationally (if applicable) recognized research program throughout his or her career. Evidence of a continual record of publication is essential, which should be demonstrated by a consistent record of top tier/quality publications throughout the years of one's career to date.

The measures of the quality of scholarship include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Number and quality of peer reviewed journal publications
  2. Evidence of high quality programmatic research
  3. Careful appraisal of the impact evident in the body of work or influential pieces of scholarship within the body of work
  4. Consistency of publication throughout one's career
  5. Evaluation of citation index information
  6. Level and consistency of external funding
  7. Publication of review articles, book chapters, monographs, scholarly textbooks
  8. Research awards
  9. Presentations at professional meetings, conferences, and symposia
  10. Invited talks or professional invitations to other discipline-related activities (e.g., committee membership; student advising; program reviews; consultation)
- b. Quality of Teaching:** The candidate is expected to have excelled in teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels while at The University of Akron. Excellence in teaching is not limited to classroom instruction, but extends to a record of accomplishment in student advising, mentoring, and curricular development. The measures of quality teaching include:
1. Evidence of an impact on the field through mentorship of students and junior faculty
  2. A consideration of formal student and peer evaluations
  3. Awards and other distinctions for teaching

4. A record of successful direction of theses and dissertations
5. Involvement in curricular activities, including degree program development
6. Evidence of unique contributions to course development and/or innovations
7. Practices that revolutionize the content or means of delivering information, and substantially change some aspect of the field

**c. Quality of Service:** Consideration will be given to a candidate's professional service in his/her discipline, with an emphasis on advancing the field in his/her area of scholarship. In addition, a candidate should be recognized at the national and local levels (i.e. university and departmental) as leaders and solid organizational citizens. The measures of professional service may include, but are not limited to:

1. Editorships (or associate editorships) in leading journals in the candidate's area
2. Service on editorial boards
3. A record of service to the discipline through ad-hoc reviews of scholarship
4. Recognition of national reputation by a candidate's area, as evidenced by involvement in programmatic reviews (e.g., APA accreditation), holding office in professional organizations, contributing to policy decisions, and involvement in matters pertaining to national governance.