School of Architecture & Community Design
Discipline Based Research Examples for Evaluation of Tenure and Promotion Applications

"For tenure to be granted, a faculty member must have established an original, coherent and meaningful program of research/creative activity, which is adding substantively to the body of knowledge within the discipline, and through which the faculty member is expected to make a continuing contribution throughout his or her career." ... USF Guidelines for Tenure and Promotion, August 7, 1998.

TENURE CRITERIA FOR ARCHITECTURE & COMMUNITY DESIGN FACULTY

Every faculty member of the School of Architecture and Community Design (SACD) is expected to maintain a level of teaching excellence and to meet high standards of professional integrity, collegiality, and objectivity in furthering the goals of the School and the University. In addition, a person of professional rank must have: either a professional or terminal degree appropriate for his/her discipline; a strong commitment to higher education; and a willingness to assume the responsibilities and obligations appropriate to a University faculty member.

The School of Architecture and Community Design (SACD) encourages a broad and diverse faculty. As such, equal recognition must be given to scholarship and practice and to basic and applied research. It is the responsibility of the individual faculty member to establish a research/creative activity agenda and to provide the necessary documentation in support of his/her application for tenure and promotion.

Faculty members of the School of Architecture and Community Design (SACD) are expected to provide service and leadership at the school, university, community and professional levels.

EVALUATION OF RESEARCH

Research/Creative Work/Practice

a. Evidence of performance in the area of Research/Creative Work can be exhibited through: the publication of books; the publication of articles in refereed journals of national or regional reputation; the publication of articles in other journals, newspapers, etc.; electronic publication in a refereed context; papers read at international, national and regional conferences; the generation of new knowledge through theoretical/basic research; and solving problems through applied research.

b. Acknowledgment of research/creative works may include published citations and/or reviews about architecture projects, publications, or exhibits. Additional acknowledgement may be as being selected as a subject for a published article or having works included in an exhibition catalogue, invitational exhibition, or traveling exhibition.

c. Funded and Non-Funded Research: Candidates are expected to have assumed leadership in establishing, conducting, and disseminating research and engaging others in research activity. Participants in funded research activity must be able to demonstrate successful
completion of the research activity, reporting of this activity, and an ability to engage other faculty and/or students in this activity as appropriate. It is expected that research findings, knowledge gained, conclusions, etc. will be disseminated through the publication of books, articles, reports, papers, lectures and other communications.

d. Independent Research: All candidates must show evidence of having engaged in independent research activity associated with their particular field, their professional interest, or teaching. It is expected that such research will be done in both a scholarly and professional manner. The candidate must show evidence of continuous intellectual growth through participation in formal continuing education programs, professional meetings, symposium, seminars, lectures, travel, self-study, etc.

e. Unpublished Works: Personally initiated research or scholarship, independent of that associated with classroom and studio teaching, which remains unpublished, not exhibited, or not presented for academic/professional review in recognized forums will NOT be considered sufficient basis for tenure and promotion.

f. Professional Practice/Consulting (If Engaged): The process of obtaining commissions for significant building projects is a strenuous form of peer review that is at least as rigorous and competitive as that encountered in the referee process for review of publications. The design process is a creative, synthetic process that combines the state-of-the-art in approach, technology, human values, and community service that is exemplary as a mode of inquiry in its discipline and execution. The products of this process have historical, theoretical, technological, and social significance that places the making of architecture as one of the primary modes of expression and growth in cultural histories. Recognition of the importance of the rigorous, critical review of architectural thought that the realm of practice offers a form of scholarship is essential to the growth of architecture as a discipline. Evidence of performance in the area of licensed professional practice and consulting can be exhibited through: building design which advances the state-of-the-art, either theoretically or technically, and/or exhibits high design quality buildings designed and constructed; design awards given by professional organizations or journals at the local, regional, national, or international level; designs published in professional journals, the popular press, or electronically; competitions entered and won; and creative work in related disciplines.

g. Design Competitions, Pro Bono, and Unbuilt Design Work (If Engaged): The pursuit of scholarship in architectural design through unbuilt projects, installations, small scale projects, or design competition entries may be an important form of research for some faculty. There is a difficulty in obtaining recognition for this work as a series or experiments that actually compose a research agenda because there are few outlets for peer review and publication. Consequently, a review of the candidate’s design portfolio in addition to the standard Tenure and Promotion Application Package, confirming the significance of this work is necessary so that an equivalent level of rigor is established relative to others in the university community.

h. Related Work (If Engaged): Evidence may be established by the formal recognition of other related work in significant invitation or juried art shows, museums, or galleries. Local or regional exhibitions or art shows, which do not enjoy a national or international reputation, will be considered as contributing to potential, but will NOT stand alone as a sufficient basis for tenure and promotion. The reputation of the museums, galleries, and shows will be assessed in the peer review process.
Promotion to Associate
  
  a. The candidate should show products and other evidence of an emerging recognition at a state and regional level of his/her work. This implies that successful candidates will have earned the esteem of their colleagues in the School, University, state, and region for the products of their academic, research, creative work, practice, and/or service.

Promotion to Professor:
  
  a. Same as for Associate Professor, but with recognition of the products of their academic, research, creative work, practice, and/or service.
  
  b. Published monograph of candidate’s professional practice work.
  
  c. Promotion to full Professor requires the realization of potential demonstrated in the standards for promotion to Associate Professor. Achievement will be measured in a manner similar to that described for Associate Professor, except that the Tenure and Promotion Committee must be convinced that the candidates has gone beyond potential and has actually established themselves as: excellent teachers; individuals whose research and/or creative works have significant national/international standing; and are significant contributors to the service needs of the school, university, and community.