

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES STATEMENT ON THE DEFINITION OF PEER REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

The College of Arts and Sciences has a mission of advancing and disseminating high quality research, scholarship, and creative endeavors. The College also provides a mandatory set of practices for external reviewers to assess research, scholarship, and creative endeavors in promotion and promotion & tenure cases. This document serves to articulate a standardized set of practices that underwrite the rigorous process of peer review and shall serve as the definition of said process.

Peer review is the process through which editors or their equivalents commission formal evaluations from peer reviewers of works being considered for publication. Peer reviewers are defined as scholars or experts who do not have a conflict of interest when evaluating the quality of the work. These formal, blind or open, evaluations are considered by editorial staff and shared with authors as a vital prepublication step in an editor's evaluation of the merits of proposed projects. This process provides feedback that is both rigorous and fair, supports an author in strengthening a work in progress, and adds value and meaning to the work that is ultimately published.

The College recognizes and values that some faculty members' scholarly work may take the form of creative endeavors such as creative writing, visual art, film production, patents, software applications and tools, etc. In these cases, juried selection, editor-author relation, or other vetting mechanisms may be the practice for determining the value of one's original contribution to the field as a form of peer review. In these cases, publication of creative work will be assessed through criteria established in the department's P&T document, which, in turn, should follow accepted practices in the discipline or field. Departments who desire to include such language in their P&T documents should model their language after that used in other departments/universities with respected programs in creative writing, film production, the visual arts, etc.

While this document discusses the processes that are recognized as generally acceptable standard practices in academia, the College acknowledges that peer review or an equivalent process for creative endeavors may vary across disciplines. Departments shall establish criteria that meet or exceed the standards outlined in this document.