

# Scholarship: Elaborating and Documenting Faculty Scholarship



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## Defining Scholarship

“Scholarship in nursing can be defined as those activities that systematically advance the teaching, research, and practice of nursing through rigorous inquiry that 1) is significant to the profession, 2) is creative, 3) can be documented, 4) can be replicated or elaborated, and 5) can be peer-reviewed through various methods (AACN 1999).”

## Difficulties Identifying Scholarly Activities

### PROBLEM:

Why do faculty tend to minimize their scholarly achievements on their CVs?



### ANECDOTAL DATA:

- Activities that relate to passionate interests and/or issue may be considered less worthy.
- Activities that are evidence based, logically evolve, are fun and succeed with positive outcomes are often overlooked, e.g. Problem Based Learning; Developing and implementing a clinical practice protocol.
- Faculty tend not to recognize activities as scholarly.

## Process in Identifying and Presenting Important Data

1. Often there is overlap with standards & criteria.
2. Update CVs (academic and non-academic) regularly, including **all** new activities, e.g. presentations, publications, awards & other evidence of scholarship.
3. Items can be deleted in future when tailoring CV to need.
4. Review carefully the academic institution's criteria for promotion and tenure. These criteria will reflect those scholarly activities that the institution values, and operationalize on the CV.
5. Identify the academic institution's definition of scholarship.
6. Explore the institution's philosophy on the other models of scholarship that value teaching, clinical practice, and integration in addition to research, e.g. AACN (1999) and Boyer (1990, 1997).
7. Maintain an evidence file for ready access when opportunities present.
8. Resources
  - AACN Position Statement on Defining Scholarship for the Discipline of Nursing provides exemplars that faculty can clearly identify their similar scholarly activities.
  - The NONPF Scholarship Manual.
  - The modified Boyer Model, which provides the foundation of the AACN position statement & and the model's application to the discipline of nursing.
  - Fiandt et al research identifying clinical scholarship guidelines.
  - Colleagues who have successfully used this model.

## Standards and Criteria Exemplar

### 1. SUNY Board of Trustees

#### Mastery of Subject Matter

- advanced degrees; national & international honors and awards; reputation in the subject /field.

#### Effectiveness in Teaching

- development of innovative teaching methods, courses, programs, e.g. DE, PBL; positive student response to teaching; major teaching awards as a master teacher, e.g. university, national.

#### Scholarly Ability

- reputation among colleagues; national & international peer reviewed presentations; peer reviewed publications; research & grants.

#### Effectiveness of Univ. Service

- work above and beyond usual committee, administrative or work with students or community.

#### Continuing Growth

- additional degrees, certifications; conference attendance, national, international leadership; mentoring former students e.g. national organizations; doctoral education.

### 2. Modified Boyer Model

#### Discovery- generating new knowledge through research.

“Within nursing, the scholarship of discovery reflects the unique perspective of nursing that *takes an expanded view of health by emphasizing health promotion, restoration, and rehabilitation, as well as a commitment to caring and comfort* (AACN, 1998, p.1).”

#### Teaching – educators creatively developing methods that promote learning.

“The scholarship of teaching is conducted through application of knowledge of the discipline or specialty area in the teaching-learning process, the development of innovative teaching and evaluation methods, program development, learning outcome evaluation, and professional role modeling” (AACN, 1999, p. 3).”

#### Application - Clinical Practice

“The scholarship of practice has emerged in nursing as a critical component in the maintenance of clinical competency of faculty in a university setting and the advancement of clinical knowledge in the discipline” (Norbeck & Taylor, 1998; Rudy et al., 1995; and Wright, 1993, as noted in AACN, 1999, p.4).”

Identify elements of clinical scholarship: Quality, leadership, knowledge development, governance (Findt et al 2004), such as demonstrating and developing,

- Quality and governance: expertise as clinician; applies established standards; practices independently and interdependently; creates & implements QI to improve practice; accountability;
- Leadership: participates in national APRN standards development; mentors clinicians to develop scholarly clinical practice; serves as consultant on advanced practice and clinical issues;
- Develop and tests research-based protocols for advanced practice; collaborative initiatives for interdisciplinary research;
- Engage in outcome-based clinical practice with an emphasis on scientific rigor; publishes and makes presentations related to practice (Fiandt et al 2004)

**Integration- Interprofessional collaborative grants, programs, sharing of knowledge and/or service, interprofessional teaching.** “The scholarship of integration refers to writings and other products that use concepts and original works from nursing and other disciplines in creating new patterns, placing knowledge in a larger context, or illuminating the data in a more meaningful way” (AACN, 1999 p. 5).”

“These four aspects of scholarship are salient to academic nursing, where each specified area supports the values of a profession committed to both social relevance and scientific advancement(AACN 1999).”

## Conclusions

1. Identify your short term and long term professional goals.
2. Review the definitions, standards and criteria of and for scholarship at your academic institution.
3. Meet with mentor(s) who can guide advancement.
4. Make a mental list of each of the scholarly activities that need to be accomplished to achieve goals.
5. Engage in the scholarly activities that are directly related to your passion as an NP faculty scholar.
6. Update CVs regularly.
7. Maintain records, folders, and binders with evidence of scholarship.

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