

Norms for Promotion to Professor
Department of History
University of Illinois Chicago

Approved by the Faculty November 19, 2014, amended October 2022

Promotion to (full) professor reflects the Department's assessment that a faculty member has become a leading figure in her or his field of study and is prepared to take on greater leadership roles within the department, university and discipline. There is no minimum or maximum timeframe for this promotion to take place, although faculty would ideally be prepared for consideration between 5 and 10 years from promotion to associate professor.

The normative academic achievement expected for promotion to professor is the successful completion of a major scholarly project since achieving promotion to associate professor.

In most cases, this scholarly project will culminate with the publication of a book, usually under the sole authorship of the candidate for promotion. Monographs or substantive books based substantially on research performed since promotion to associate professor, and published in an appropriate format by major presses, including those aimed at a broad audience, would normally meet this requirement. Textbooks, exhibits/public history projects, and other works that primarily synthesize or popularize existing research would normally not do so. While it may in some instances be difficult to distinguish work of synthesis from original research, the most salient issue for the department to determine is whether the book (or equivalent scholarly interventions discussed below) *significantly helps to establish the faculty member as a recognized expert* in her or his field. The department would normally expect the book to be in production (i.e., accepted for publication and a final version delivered to the press) before voting on promotion to professor.

In some cases, alternative forms of academic production may stand in lieu of a book as evidence of completion of a scholarly project. The publication of a significant number of articles in recognized academic journals or chapters in peer-reviewed edited books, ideally centered on a particular theme or realm of knowledge, may constitute such evidence. Likewise, significant projects of public history or other forms of expressing the results of a research-based scholarly project can be considered the equivalent of a book if in the Department's opinion they bring about a significant reimagining of some aspect of the candidate's field. The Department may also consider that a combination of traditional publications and alternative forms of production constitutes the equivalent of a book.

In addition to the book, the department would expect to see other evidence that the candidate has become a recognized expert in his or her field, as evidenced by some combination of publications, conference presentations, invited lectureships, memberships on the boards of journals and scholarly organizations, awards of competitive grants, and other such evidence. The candidate should have established a solid record of teaching as well as service to the department and other entities at the university and within the discipline. There should be past and continuing examples of scholarship, research, teaching, mentoring, professional development, or service relevant to the institutional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. In applying for promotion, you will be asked to write a "statement on efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion" in which you are asked to "provide examples of scholarship, research, teaching, creative activity, or service relevant to the institutional commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and describe your plan for future activities.

The process for promotion to professor is structurally similar to promotion from assistant to associate professor, except that (a) it need not be done within a pre-determined lapse of time and (b) only (full) professors will vote on the issue of promotion. Associate professors interested in seeking promotion should discuss their intentions with the department chair in the year before they seek to come up for promotion. The chair will provide advice about the advisability of moving forward with the case for promotion. The chair will name a promotion committee comprised of three professors in the department charged with evaluating the candidate's record of service, teaching, and research (or if there are not three full professors, will find appropriate faculty in consultation with College, who can serve that role); the chair will also solicit external reviewers of the candidate's research and standing within the field. Once the candidate's dossier and letters have been assembled in the early fall, all (full) professors in the department will have the opportunity to review these records and vote at a meeting, pursuant to departmental bylaws.