

Guidelines to Help Faculty Succeed in Research at Montana Tech

Through their efforts, Montana Tech's faculty enable student learning; perform research; and serve the campus, the wider community, and their profession.

Within the scope of research, Montana Tech recognizes and encourages the full range of activities that advance knowledge, develop technology, produce creative works, and result in discoveries, including contributions to the knowledge base associated with effective pedagogies. Because Montana Tech's primary mission is the preparation of students for successful careers and leadership, it is a priority to engage students to the maximum extent in research and creative scholarship, thereby providing them with the associated rich educational experiences.

Montana Tech expects faculty to exemplify the highest standards of quality and integrity in their research, creative scholarship, and student mentoring. With respect to research and creative scholarship, faculty members are encouraged to achieve a level of productivity and output, that is measurable and significant in the context of their other responsibilities. Measurable scholarly productivity typically includes some combination of the following, depending on the discipline:

- a) Publish and disseminate the research and creative scholarship they perform in the appropriate format and venues for the discipline. Faculty members who publish regularly become recognized as active scholars, which improves their competitiveness for grants and other funding. For new faculty, Montana Tech values the research/creative works performed prior to their arrival at Montana Tech and encourages faculty to publish this work, in parallel with starting a research program here.
- b) Initiate a research/creative program at Montana Tech that produces valued/recognized evidence appropriate to the discipline (e.g. peer-reviewed articles, books, works of art, patents, presentations, performances, etc.). The results of the work should be published or otherwise disseminated in a timely manner, so that it can be used and evaluated by peers, and serve as the basis for follow-on projects and

external funding. Moreover, through research mentoring, faculty members provide great educational and research training opportunities for Montana Tech students.

- a. Collaborative projects, with other Tech faculty/programs and/or with collaborators at other institutions, are valued as much as individual PI projects.
- b. Faculty are encouraged to bring timely and important new research areas and opportunities to campus that have previously been unavailable.
- c) Make credible and persistent efforts to obtain external financial support, by preparing high-quality applications for grants, contracts, or other support and winning some.
- d) Do important research (intellectual/creative merit and broader impacts) and gain recognition for it, such as invitations to present work at important regional/national/international conferences, invitations to referee manuscripts or proposals for journals or funding agencies, and invitations to serve on conference program committees.
- e) Mentor students in research and bring the excitement of research into the classroom.

The Research Office is very grateful for the ideas and input of several faculty, including especially via discussions at the Research Advisory Committee, that have helped shape this document, with the goal of it being helpful and encouraging to faculty—especially new faculty—interested in conducting research at Montana Tech.

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