

Standard 4.B – Scholarship, Research, and Artistic Creation

Scholarship, including research and artistic creation, is inherent in the work of faculty and students and is integrated in mutually supportive ways with instructional activities, regardless of the size or nature of the institution.

- Scholarship is systematic study of a chosen subject characterized by a high level of expertise, originality, critical analysis, significance, and demonstrability. Through scholarship, which may entail creation, application, synthesis, or transmission of knowledge, faculty acquire and sustain their expertise, thereby contributing to the validity and vitality of their teaching. Faculty scholarship is necessary to maintain effective instruction in all institutions of higher education. It also provides students the opportunity to observe and develop an understanding of scholarly activity.

- Research is scholarly activity directed toward constructing and/or revising theories, and creating or applying knowledge. Although not limited to graduate/research institutions, research is an essential and integral part of graduate education where it serves two principal functions: (1) it advances the frontiers of knowledge which, when disseminated, contributes to the welfare of society and ensures the viability of content in an academic discipline; and (2) it educates students in the methods of inquiry and prepares them for careers as scholars, researchers, or practitioners.

- Artistic creation is scholarly activity in the visual, performing, and literary arts that expresses original ideas, interpretations, imagination, thoughts, or feelings.

- 4.B.1 -- Consistent with institutional mission and goals, faculty are engaged in scholarship, research, and artistic creation.
 - In the fall of 2004, TMCC compiled a list of the scholarship and artistic creation of its full-time faculty (See Appendix #12). This list reveals an impressive breadth and depth of scholarly and artistic production generated from the TMCC community. Examination of this list reveals that faculty in the academic areas – particularly the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences – were especially active and productive in this area. For example, as evidenced in the faculty *Curriculum Vitae*, TMCC faculty have published a number of full-length texts and journal articles as well as delivered presentations at numerous professional conferences. Most of these efforts are a direct reflection of the faculty member’s subject of expertise; a smaller percentage of research and writing focus directly on the subject of pedagogy and practice.
 - In the arts, TMCC’s faculty produce and display works of art on a regular basis on the campus, in the greater Reno community, and even in locations outside of Nevada. Photography seems to be an area of particular strength. Similarly, in the performing arts, faculty members produce and direct public performances on a regular basis, and music faculty, in addition to directing TMCC students, perform annually in professional organizations such as the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra.
- 4.B.2 -- Institutional policies and procedures, including ethical considerations, concerning scholarship, research, and artistic creation, are clearly communicated.
 - The Administrative Manual contains several policies regarding scholarship, research, and artistic creation. They are as follows in no particular order:
 1. The President may grant a one-year leave of absence for faculty to pursue research and, presumably, art projects (p. 149).
 2. Sabbatical projects may involve research as long as that research is “directly related” to the faculty member’s work at that College (p. 150).
 3. Faculty members may have access to student records for research purposes if they have written permission of the students and the TMCC President (p. 162).
 4. The UCCSN intellectual property policy is reprinted in the manual (p. 230).
 - Regarding the use of human subjects in research, permission must be granted through the Human Subjects Review Board. This policy was distributed to TMCC faculty through email.

- 4.B.3 -- Consistent with institutional mission and goals, faculty have a substantive role in the development and administration of research policies and practices.
- - A faculty subcommittee created the current sabbatical policy and procedure, and human subjects research is monitored by a faculty committee based at the University of Nevada, Reno.
- 4.B.4 Consistent with its mission and goals, the institution provides appropriate financial, physical, administrative, and information resources for scholarship, research, and artistic creation.
 - Because TMCC's mission is teaching, faculty scholarship has not been an institutional priority in the past. In fact, a perception remains among some in the administration and the faculty that scholarly and artistic work is somehow "inappropriate" and "antithetical" to the community college mission. Sabbatical awards are available (see section ?), but the burden is placed on the faculty member to show the direct and explicit impact of sabbatical projects to student success. The nature of the wording of the sabbatical application as it currently stands reflects the antagonism, or lack of understanding, between the college culture of the past and the perceptions of the more recent influx of faculty to TMCC. For these faculty, scholarship and artistic production are inextricably intertwined with their classroom success and approach. As a result of this generational shift within the faculty, TMCC's culture is beginning to change as more and more faculty insist upon seeing the connection between their scholarly and artistic and their success as teachers in the classroom.
- 4.B.5 -- The nature of the institution's research mission and goals and its commitment to faculty scholarship, research, and artistic creation are reflected in the assignment of faculty responsibilities, the expectation and reward of faculty performance, and opportunities for faculty renewal through sabbatical leaves or other similar programs.
 - Sabbatical awards are the only demonstration of support for faculty work in these areas. The only other potential reward is the occasional mention of a scholarly or artistic project completed in the President's newsletter.
- 4.B.6 -- Sponsored research and programs funded by grants, contracts, and gifts are consistent with the institution's mission and goals.
 - TMCC does not conduct any grant-funded research.
- 4.B.7 -- Faculty are accorded academic freedom to pursue scholarship, research, and artistic creation consistent with the institution's mission and goals.
 - There is no indication of infringements on academic freedom in this area.