



This policy codifies the University of Western States' definition of "scholarship." UWS views scholarship as more than research alone. The university mission places primacy on excellence in teaching and producing top quality practitioners in the healing arts, and as such, recognizes the scholarly endeavors that teachers frequently utilize in facilitating student learning.

UWS defines "scholarship" as the creative product of disciplined, peer-reviewed inquiry that creates new knowledge and understanding or contributes new and unique insights through synthesis, integration or interpretation of existing knowledge. Directly or indirectly, this work is a positive contribution to health care and health care education.

There are several types of activities that qualify as scholarship under this definition.

### **Discovery**

Scholarship of discovery is original research, testing hypotheses, collecting data (qualitative or quantitative) and reporting the results. This is the type of work traditionally espoused as "research."

### **Application**

Scholarship of application is work that demonstrates theory or knowledge applied in real-life situations. In other words, application involves solving problems that exist by actually using existing theory or knowledge. Scholarship of application can be process-oriented (e.g. description of a new way to do something). Scholarship of application seeks to relate knowledge in one's field to the practice of that discipline. Such scholarship moves toward engagement with the community beyond academia in a variety of ways; drawing upon existing knowledge for the purpose of crafting solutions to social problems, or making information or ideas accessible to the public.

### **Integration**

Scholarship of integration encompasses scholarly activities that are primarily interdisciplinary or interpretive in nature. Such scholarship seeks to better understand existing knowledge by making connections across disciplines, illuminating data in a revealing manner, drawing together isolated factors, or placing known information into broader contexts. It synthesizes, interprets, and connects the findings in a way that brings new meaning to those facts.

### **Student Learning and Teaching**

The scholarship of student learning and teaching is engaged in the creation, description, evaluation or innovation of students' educational experience. Scholarship of student learning and teaching is inclusive of theory and practice of competency development in students as well as student life and co-curricular issues. This type of scholarship involves rigorous investigation, reflection, analysis and documentation of activities related to the student experience. It is most frequently focused on the domains of knowledge, skill, critical thinking and attitudinal development, but is not limited to these areas. Inasmuch as many other areas of scholarship could overlap in this area, it is essential that the Scholarship of Student Learning and Teaching be focused on activities and events that relate to educational environments and students.



### **Invention**

The scholarship of invention relates to scholarly inquiry resulting in new processes, procedures, devices or products. This type of scholarship involves a creative process that includes rigorous investigation, reflection, analysis and documentation of the new invention. The outcome of the scholarship of invention could include physical products such as devices or tools, but could also involve knowledge products such as software or protocols for management of information or problems.

### **Service and Administration**

The scholarship of service and administration involves work that demonstrates all the characteristics of scholarship, but for which the purpose is to evaluate, describe, critique and assess the academic business enterprise in order to improve the quality and efficiency of its operation. Because much of this work is confidential, it is not as likely to enjoy open and transparent production and dissemination. This work is nonetheless an important contribution to the improvement of education.

### **Clinical Practice**

The scholarship of clinical practice is the creation, analysis, description, and documentation of professional behaviors that occurs in the delivery of patient care.

### **Characteristics of Scholarship**

1. Demonstrates integrity and transparency in its creation and reporting
2. Demonstrates methodological rigor and reproducibility
3. Demonstrates objectivity
4. Demonstrates thorough consideration and comparison to existing knowledge on the subject
5. Has been formally written and referenced
6. Has been peer-reviewed and judged to be of scholarly merit
7. Has been disseminated to appropriate audiences through accepted distribution mechanisms

### **Peer Review**

Peer review is an essential component of any scholarly endeavor. Peer review is the critical analysis of a professional work, including the following:

1. Validation of the integrity of the work and its creators/investigators
2. Critique of methodological and technical rigor
3. Evaluation of quality and accuracy of the work
4. Critique of the results
5. Assessment of uniqueness, contribution and importance to the publics to which it professes relevance

There are many types of peer review. The type of peer review that any work receives will be stipulated by the expectations for the outcomes. Two types of peer review would suffice in most circumstances: internal peer review and external (independent) peer review. Confidential documents such as those created by some types of scholarship of administration can be reviewed in a confidential manner by external or internal mechanisms. Both types of peer review are improved through the use of

### **Policy 1241 Scholarship Defined**

*Established: 08/28/2008*

*Revision History:*



standardized criteria for review, anonymity of reviewer and author(s), and reviewers possessing adequate education and experience in the discipline to ensure thorough understanding of the work and what it offers.

**Related Policy:**      [Policy 8002 Ethical Standards in the Conduct of Research](#)  
[Policy 8003 Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#)  
[Policy 8004 \(B\) Development of Research Activities](#)

**Keywords:**    discovery, investigation, research, scholarship