

2. PROMOTION CRITERIA

The principal reason for establishing academic ranks is to recognize and to encourage the continued professional growth of individual faculty members. The faculty make a variety of contributions as educators, scholars, innovators and leaders that advance WPI's mission.

b. Criteria for Promotion of Tenured and Tenure-Track Teaching Faculty

ii. Criteria for Promotion to (full) Professor of Teaching (Approved by the faculty, May 10, 2022)

Professors of Teaching make a variety of contributions as educators, innovators, and leaders that advance WPI's educational mission and visibility.

The specific categories of performance in the (full) Professor of Teaching rank and track are teaching practice; continuing professional growth and currency; and service. The candidate for promotion to full Professor of Teaching should demonstrate continuing high-quality teaching practice with significant impact on students as well as a record of contributions and professional growth and currency that includes creative pedagogical approaches within the context of their discipline or beyond and that demonstrates a positive external impact beyond WPI as appropriate to the candidate's area of expertise. The standards for promotion to full Professor of Teaching are similar to those for promotion to Associate Professor of Teaching, with the expectation of continued contributions that demonstrate a positive external impact beyond WPI since becoming an Associate Professor of Teaching. Contributions to WPI may demonstrate an external impact if they are disseminated and/or recognized externally. In most cases, the high-quality and positive external impact of contributions must be recognized by peers within WPI and by knowledgeable experts external to WPI.

The definitions of the primary areas of teaching practice, continuing professional growth and currency, and service along with guidelines for documenting these are detailed in the Tenure Criteria for the Associate and (full) Professor of Teaching (see Tenure, Section 3.b) and in the Guidance for Documenting and Assessing Activities Toward Tenure for Professors of Teaching (see Tenure, Section 3.c).

Regardless of rank, the Professor of Teaching track emphasizes the professional growth and currency of each faculty member, especially when it advances the candidate's teaching and/or discipline more broadly and contributes to WPI's educational mission and visibility. Professional growth and currency include but are not limited to experimenting and exploring for the purpose of innovative teaching (as described in Tenure, Section 3.b under the tenure criteria for the Associate and (full) Professor of Teaching) and/or remaining continually active as scholars through the scholarship of discovery, teaching and learning, integration, application and practice, or engagement (as defined in the broad Definition of Scholarship Used for Promotion to (full) Professor, Section 2.a.ii).

Because service and citizenship are an integral part of being a tenured faculty member at WPI, a candidate for promotion must also have established a significant record of performance in service and citizenship contributions to the program/department/school, the WPI community, the field/profession, and/or the local/regional community. WPI values both individual and collaborative work within and across the domains of teaching practice, professional growth and currency, and service.

While it is expected that these criteria describe the great majority of cases, there may be exceptional candidates whose unique contributions, while not conforming to these guidelines, are deserving of promotion.