

TITLE: SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

POLICY STATEMENT:

Red Deer College (RDC) supports the creation and dissemination of knowledge by fostering scholarly activities in an environment of open inquiry, academic freedom, creativity, and innovation.

PURPOSE:

This policy provides the basis for support and accountability for scholarly activity on the part of the College community. It defines scholarly activity based on the Boyer Model and specifies the place that it has in the pursuit of excellence in the teaching and learning environment of the College. This policy gives guidance to scholars and administrators in managing and supporting scholarship at RDC.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all members of RDC who engage in scholarly activity and to any individuals who are associated with the College in scholarly activity.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Policies at RDC:

- 1.1. Treat all persons fairly and respectfully.
- 1.2. Are non-discriminatory and non-intrusive.
- 1.3. Incorporate open, honest and timely communication.
- 1.4. Are made in a timely manner.
- 1.5. Provide appropriate confidentiality and privacy.
- 1.6. Provide appropriate access to the College and education.
- 1.7. Ensure that all persons have access to informed support regarding policies, procedures, rights and responsibilities.
- 1.8. Operate with clear written expectations for conduct and handling of complaints.
- 1.9. Meet all regulatory standards.
- 1.10. Maintain and clearly state a high standard of instruction and administration in all areas of educational programs and services.
- 1.11. Are communicated in alternate forms to those who require such accommodation.

2. The following principles apply specifically to this policy:

- 2.1. Scholarly activity at RDC conforms to the Province of Alberta's Post-secondary Learning Act and Roles and Mandates Policy Framework, as well as RDC's approved mandate.
- 2.2. Teaching and learning and the quality of the learning experience are the core of the mission of Red Deer College. The College supports and develops scholarly activity in the areas of teaching and learning.

- 2.3. The values of exploration, inclusiveness, excellence, integrity, community, and accountability guide the manner in which the College community engages in scholarly activity.
- 2.4. Through collaboration, the College and its employees are encouraged to create an environment that fosters scholarly work.
- 2.5. RDC supports opportunity for diversified interests, innovation, and academic curiosity.

DEFINITIONS:

Scholarship: deals with the discovery, integration, application and transmission of knowledge, ideas, skills or artistic efforts. It is carried out in a manner that is organized, original, creative, and innovative. Scholars have a sense of purpose, engage in reflective critique and seek avenues to share their insights with others. Scholarship demonstrates both mastery of and excellence within a particular discipline and is recognized by one's peers as contributing to the advancement of that discipline.

Scholarship of *discovery*: includes creating new knowledge and working on the frontiers of a discipline to advance understanding of a subject. This includes knowledge gained through research.

Scholarship of *teaching*: refers not only to the transmission of knowledge but also to the study of pedagogy and learning outcomes. It includes the conveyance of the art and science of a discipline from the expert to the novice and building bridges between the teacher's understanding and the student's learning. The scholarship of teaching also refers to the development of both the theory and application of the ways that student learning can be enhanced.

Scholarship of *integration*: refers to the myriad new ways a faculty member brings existing and/or interdisciplinary knowledge together to understand an issue and communicate that understanding to audiences outside one's discipline. Synthesizing findings and discovering patterns and connections within a discipline and across disciplines creates an integration of knowledge and brings new meanings to original work.

Scholarship of *application*: also referred to as engagement, describes ways in which faculty use their professional expertise in partnership with communities to solve problems. It explores the dynamic relationship between theory and practice. Evidence-based practice and promoting or demonstrating innovation are included.

GUIDELINES:

1. Faculty scholarship is a professional opportunity and, in some cases, a professional responsibility that is encouraged and supported whenever possible.
2. The extent and type of scholarly activity expected of individuals is flexible and can vary in workload allocation, type, and support depending on the skills and interests of the individual, the needs of the School, or the establishment of appropriate academic credibility or currency.
3. Scholarly activity at RDC is subject to the highest standards of practice, ethical conduct, accountability standards, and reporting requirements.

4. When scholarly activity includes research involving human or animal participants, safe and respectful treatment is assured through policy and practice.
5. Scholarly activity is supported and developed through careful resource management.
6. The College supports and promotes scholarly activity when it is related to College programs, research interests, or the discipline expertise of the College member.
7. Wherever possible and appropriate, students are involved in the scholarly activity.
8. Scholarly activity at RDC is such that it can be reviewed by peers. Normally, accountability processes for scholarly work involve some form of peer review. Peer review may include internal or external reviewers.
9. Regarding scholarly outcomes, the Boyer model states that “[f]or a scholarly outcome distinct from publications to be designated as scholarship it must meet three necessary criteria: it must be public, it must be amendable to critical appraisal, and it must be in a form that enables its use by other members of the scholarly community” (Boyer et.al, 2016, p. 20).

PROCEDURE:

1. The precise nature of scholarly activity and the accountability framework for that activity vary across the College. They are informed by and connected to the Boyer model, the expectations of funders of scholarly activity including research grant agencies and contractors for innovation projects, and at least one of the following:
 - 1.1. The nature of the disciplines within a School,
 - 1.2. The credentials offered by that School,
 - 1.3. The academic preparation and expertise of the School members, and
 - 1.4. External expectations for scholarship relative to academic credibility.
2. Research and scholarly activity projects will align with the Inventory of Scholarship and the Boyer Model, as outlined in the *Guidebook on Scholarly Activity*.
3. Support of scholarship may include, but is not limited to, the suggested partial list of services contained in the *Guidebook on Scholarly Activity*. The extent to which these services are granted and provided is dependent on the extent to which the scholarly activity conforms to this policy.
4. The College provides an annual public report of the scholarly activity of its members.
5. The products of scholarly activity are normally disseminated to the public, peers, or specific discipline groups depending on the nature of the work and the accountability requirements specified.
6. In assessing scholarly work, the following criteria are considered: clear goals, adequate preparation, appropriate methods, significant results, effective presentation, and reflective critique.
7. Where possible, when decision makers are required to make decisions based on comparative merit, they should endeavor to make quality criteria clear.
8. Proposals will be submitted to the appropriate signing authority where financial or administrative bodies need to grant approval for funding and support.
9. Through Academic Council, the College maintains the Research and Scholarship Committee as outlined by the Constitution of Academic Council.

10. The *Guidebook on Scholarly Activity* provides detailed guidelines and procedures regarding the application of this policy.

OFFICER RESPONSIBLE: Chair, Academic Council

POLICY CATEGORY: Academic Policy

RECOMMENDING AUTHORITY: Academic Council

CONSULTATION FOR REVIEW: Research and Scholarship Committee, Director of Applied Research and Innovation, Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis, Academic Policy Committee, Faculty Professional Development Committee

POLICY REVIEW DATE: July 1, 2022

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2017

REVISION HISTORY: January 14, 2009
July 1, 2017

RELATED POLICIES:

- [Academic Freedom](#)
- [Conflicts of Interest and Mandatory Disclosure](#)
- [Contracts for Research and Innovation](#)
- [Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants](#)
- [Integrity in Research and Scholarship](#)
- [Intellectual Property](#)
- [Research and the Promotion of Innovation](#)
- [Research Grant Management](#)
- [Research Involving Animals](#)

CONNECTION TO BOARD POLICIES:

All RDC policies support relevant Board of Governors policies.