

**GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTION  
RESEARCH TITLE SERIES  
SCHOOL OF FISHERIES, AQUACULTURE & AQUATIC SCIENCES  
AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
(Adopted June 26, 2020; Amended March 5, 2021)**

The purpose of this document is to outline the guidelines for promotion in the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture & Aquatic Sciences for those faculty members in the research professor series. This document is meant to complement the policies described in the *Auburn University Faculty Handbook* (<http://www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/facultyHandbook/>). Faculty members interested in promotion are expected to be familiar with the appropriate and most up-to-date policies in the *Handbook*.

Note: Individuals in the research professor series will be evaluated solely on research-related activities. Individuals may choose to be involved in teaching or outreach activities, but there are no formal expectations.

**Promotion to associate research professor**

*(Normally, a candidate must serve at least five complete years on full-time appointment at the assistant professor level before they may be nominated for promotion to associate professor. A candidate who is especially meritorious may be recommended for early promotion by the department head/chair with majority support of the faculty who hold rank superior to that of the candidate.)*

**1) While a research assistant professor, individuals are expected to establish an active, extramurally funded, and independent research program involving students as evidenced by:**

- Consistent external funding adequate to support themselves, their research program and students
- Publishing research articles regularly in a variety of nationally- or internationally-recognized peer-reviewed journals
- Directing thesis and dissertation research

Note: An average of three papers per year is considered a benchmark. The faculty member is expected to graduate two graduate students (including at least one PhD) during their time as a research assistant professor and be in a position to graduate one student per year afterward. However, the level of publishing and the number of students graduated may be less depending on the discipline and quality of journals.

**2) Faculty members are also expected to comport themselves in a collegial manner:**

*The likelihood of continued and consistent excellence and productivity, based on the above two guidelines, will be a major consideration in the recommendation by the Tenure and Promotion Committee and the director of the School.*

**Promotion to research professor**

*(Normally, a candidate must serve at least four complete years on full-time appointment at the associate professor level before they may be nominated for promotion to professor. Only in exceptional and well-documented cases in which a faculty member has met requirements for promotion to professor in a shorter time should they be recommended for early promotion by the department head/chair, with majority support of the faculty members who hold rank superior to that of the candidate.)*

**3) Continue to meet the guidelines above for promotion to associate research professor**

**4) Establish a national or international reputation in their discipline as evidenced by:**

- Invitations to participate on review panels, committees, and/or other influential groups within their discipline
- Invitations to be a plenary and/or keynote speaker at national or international conferences
- Invitations to serve on editorial boards of prestigious journals and/or write reviews, syntheses or perspectives

**5) Demonstrate leadership within the School, College, University, professional societies, discipline, and/or government agencies as evidenced by:**

- Holding elected office and/or appointed positions in professional societies
- Chairing committees within the University
- Serving on public- and/or private-sector advisory and/or steering committees and/or or panel
- Leading large, multi-investigator research projects

Note: The bulleted items in guidelines 4 and 5 are examples of evidence that can be offered. It is not necessary to have done them all, and other evidence may be offered.

*The likelihood of continued and consistent excellence and productivity, based on the above five guidelines, will be a major consideration in the recommendation by the Tenure and Promotion Committee and the director of the School.*