

Guideline for Drexel University College of Engineering Faculty

Definition for Research Active Tenured Faculty

March 2024

The objective of these guidelines is to provide practical criteria that can be utilized by department heads in the College of Engineering (CoE) to equitably identify research active tenured faculty when needed. Please note that these guidelines are not intended to be used for pre-tenure faculty nor to be construed as prioritization of research activity over other academic activities. Due to the diverse nature of the research that CoE faculty conduct, it is highly recommended that each department develop its own transparent policy, using the criteria presented here as a guide, to promote research productivity.

When developing these guidelines, the following principles were considered:

- A research active faculty member conducts research on an ongoing basis;
- A research active faculty member spends a significant focus of their academic activity on research activities that include, but are not limited to: developing research proposals and securing extramural research funding; financially supporting and mentoring graduate student(s) and post-doc researcher(s); and producing refereed publications and other research products.

To be considered “Research Active,” a CoE tenured faculty member is expected to demonstrate the required research performance measured in terms of one or more of the following criteria:

- Exceptional publication record in their respective discipline, such as a five-year h-index (H5) that is higher than 20;
- Three-year rolling average of one full-time equivalent graduate student or post-doc per year supported by non-TA funding;
- Three-year rolling average of annual research expenditures (as PI or Co-PI) is higher than \$100K;
- Receive a prestigious national/international award or designation, e.g., National Academy of Engineering membership;
- Submission of at least three new distinct proposals as PI or co-PI (with a minimum of one as PI) annually, each with a \$100K minimum annual budget—this criterion should not be used for more than three consecutive years.

A faculty member’s level of research activity has the potential to affect their teaching load and lab space at the discretion of the department head and Dean. Please reference the [Drexel University College of Engineering Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Workload Policy](#) for further details about faculty workload.