

What is Education Scholarship and What's In It For You

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What is Education Scholarship?

Teaching is a legitimate subject of scholarly investigation, and educators who engage in careful evaluation of educational activities and demonstrate advancement in the field of medical education are worthy of acknowledgment. Scholarship does not simply encompass basic science or clinical research, but is in fact a broad concept that includes teaching and service. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching published Boyer's influential *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate*, which provided an analysis and framework regarding the role of the professional educator. This analysis advocated for teaching itself as a form of scholarly work, if undertaken with clear goals, preparation, scientific methods, evaluation, dissemination, and reflection.ⁱ

Categories of Education Scholarship may include:

- Direct Teaching
- Curriculum Design
- Learner Assessment
- Mentoring and Advising
- Education Leadership and Administrationⁱⁱ

Assessment of education scholarship is done by evaluation of quantity, quality, and engagement with the education community. Teaching excellence is demonstrated in evaluation data from learners and peers, learner outcomes and improvement, and teaching effectiveness. Dissemination of scholarly activities such as curriculum materials and publication of medical education research advance knowledge among the education community. Advising and mentoring itself has scholarly value as it impacts the careers of advisees and can have widespread effects.

Master educators develop, evaluate, improve, and disseminate new curricula, programs, and instructional technologies. "Educators add value to their institutions by advancing knowledge in the field of education."ⁱⁱⁱ With a scholarly approach to teaching, educators can contribute to improvements in the field of medical education.

Why do Education Scholarship?

Education itself is a viable career track, and excellence in teaching can take the form of professional scholarship. Academic promotion within the institution, recognition through teaching awards, leadership roles within the education community, and peer reviewed publication in education journals are all legitimate forms of recognition that can be attained through education scholarship.

Educational excellence can be measured by both quality and quantity of scholarly work. Work that is systematic in design, implementation, and assessment and evidenced over time contributes to an educator's portfolio of professional contributions to the field. Building upon past knowledge and work, educators contribute advancements through publishing and disseminating new and innovative assessments of educational activities. By demonstrating that educators are accomplishing the educational mission of the institution through a body of scholarly work in education, master educators may advance in their field through valued promotion decisions and acknowledgment both within the institution and among the education community.

Aside from the personal benefits of recognition for excellence and the potential for promotion, an additional value of taking what one does and turning it into scholarship is that by having it peer reviewed and disseminated, it can be broadly used by the education community to improve the type and quality of medical education.

ⁱ Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Professoriate, Ernest L. Boyer, The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, San Francisco: Jossey-Bass 1990.

ⁱⁱ Simpson D, Anderson M. Education Scholarship: How do we define and acknowledge it? Association of American Medical Colleges, Accessed 1/23/11 at https://www.aamc.org/members/gfa/faculty_vitae/148580/educational_scholarship.html.

ⁱⁱⁱ Advancing Educators and Education: Defining the Components and Evidence of Educational Scholarship: Summary Report and Findings from the AAM Group on Educational Affairs Consensus Conference on Educational Scholarship. Association of American Medical Colleges, 2007.