Faculty in the LSOE series, including LPSOE and SLSOE, have a primary responsibility to teaching and teaching-related tasks and a secondary responsibility to professional and/or scholarly achievement, including creative activity. Faculty in this series regularly carry a heavier teaching load than faculty in the professorial series, usually at least 6 classes per year, or a combined equivalent of classes and teaching-related activity for the department.

Candidates for appointment, reappointment, merit increase, or promotion in this series are evaluated according to the following three criteria, with teaching excellence weighted more heavily than the other two: (1) teaching excellence; (2) professional and/or scholarly activity, including creative activity; (3) university and public service.

In addition to the standard campus methods of evaluating teaching excellence, further examples in this category may include course and program development, educational initiatives on campus, and/or facilities design which have a positive impact on the department’s undergraduate and/or graduate programs.

Professional and scholarly/creative activity for faculty in the LSOE series might include any of the activities that the department recognizes as research for faculty in the professor series, as well as more applied work in music creation/performance/production, music pedagogy, sound design, or software and technology development, for instance. University service expectations are the same for faculty in the professorial and LSOE series, and public service might include organization of music or music research related events, including concerts, conferences, etc.

Promotion to LSOE from LPSOE requires teaching excellence and distinction in service and professional activity. Significant emphasis is placed on teaching excellence, however, the scholarly and/or creative work of candidates should also have measurable impact on the professional world in the form of reviews, citations, use in musical productions, or the equivalent. Promotion to SLSOE requires a continuing record of excellence in teaching and university service, and a body of research or professional engagement that has achieved acclaim at the national or international level. The candidate's professional and/or scholarly/creative activity should have influenced other music researchers or music producers in measurable ways.

Advancement to SLSOE Step VI involves an overall career review that expects extraordinary effectiveness and excellence in teaching and teaching-related tasks, and a body of sustained professional and/or research work earning continuing national or international recognition.

Advancement to an Above-Scale Rank involves an overall career review and is reserved only for the most highly accomplished faculty whose teaching has had a significant impact on education at the university and within the discipline, whose work has achieved sustained excellence, recognition and acclaim, and whose service is highly meritorious.