



RESEARCH MANDATE			
Policy Type	Academic	Initially Approved:	Aug 16, 2022
Policy Sponsor	Vice President, Academic Affairs	Last Revised:	
Administrative Responsibility	Office of Research Services	Review Scheduled:	2027
Approver	General Faculties Council		

Research, scholarly and creative activity play a vital role at Ambrose University. Our institutional research mandate is rooted in—but extends beyond—the *The Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta’s Adult Learning System*. That policy, issued by Alberta Advanced Education and Technology, defines the role of research at Independent Academic Institutions like Ambrose as follows: “Alberta’s publicly-funded post-secondary institutions are key players within the system, and must coordinate their research and innovation activities to maximize public investments.”¹ Ambrose stands in agreement, noting that research and collaborative activity complement the primary instructional role of faculty, enriching classroom teaching and creating a scholarly atmosphere on campus. We affirm our role as researchers, whose scholarship contributes to our academic disciplines, our church constituencies, the public of Alberta and Canada, and the international partners we serve.

In general, Ambrose subscribes to the broad understanding of scholarship advanced by the Campus Alberta Quality Council: “Scholarship is a multi-faceted activity involving the creation, integration and dissemination of knowledge.”² Similarly, we subscribe to the understanding that clearly defined research roles and mandates (...) support the delivery of high-quality credentials”³ Influenced by the thinking of Ernest Boyer⁴ and others, Ambrose recognizes the following categories of legitimate scholarly activity: discovery, integration, application, innovation and teaching. The scholarship of discovery is the “basic research” which generates new knowledge, generally through a process of background work, literature review, grant-writing, data collection, analysis and interpretation, and dissemination. The scholarship of integration synthesizes diverse research findings (new knowledge), fitting them into existing categories

¹ Alberta Advanced Education and Technology *The Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta’s Adult Learning System* (March, 2019). . <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460143162> , Accessed February 25, 2022 14.

² Campus Alberta Quality Council, https://caqc.alberta.ca/media/6105/m-alcp-caqc-publications-caqc-handbook-caqc-handbook-2020-handbook_march-2020.pdf. Accessed February 25, 2022, 42.

³ Alberta Advanced Education and Technology *The Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta’s Adult Learning System* (March, 2019). Report. <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9781460143162> , Accessed February 25, 2022 14.

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Boyer, E. L., In Moser, D., In Ream, T. C., & In Braxton, J. M. (2016). *Scholarship reconsidered: Priorities of the professoriate*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass/Wiley.

or developing new paradigms with which to organize other knowledge. The scholarship of application employs existing knowledge to solve problems, in collaboration with industry and end users, benefitting parties in the Ambrose constituency, Canadian public, and international community. The scholarship of innovation works to implement and review the viability of products, policies, services or approaches in order to improve their efficacy. The scholarship of teaching links the practice of teaching with research into theories, models, and best practices relating to the teaching-learning process.

Alongside this understanding of the diversity of scholarly activity, Ambrose University affirms peer review as the foundation of academic research and scholarly activity. Peer review ensures that research results reflect a high standard of quality, accuracy, and academic integrity. It legitimates scholarly work, preserving the accepted standards of each academic discipline and preventing the dissemination of irrelevant findings, unwarranted claims, and mere personal views.

Ambrose University also affirms the importance of the widest possible dissemination of the results of scholarly activity. This ranges from academic monographs, peer-reviewed journal articles, to works of art, musical recordings, or other forms of artistic publication, academic or professional conference papers, government or professional society reports, contributions to general interest journals, product development, technological development, development of best practices, newspapers, academic websites, podcasts or blogs, presentations at in-service training events or professional workshops, as well as media appearances and public lectures.

Ambrose University is committed to the ongoing development of its research capacity and scholarly output, with the goal of establishing a thriving scholarly community and a solid reputation for research as a small university.