





This section provides detail on areas of research strength at Concordia. It does not discuss all research activity in these areas but rather provides a sample of scholarly work in progress in a variety of disciplines.

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In keeping with the institutional emphasis on teaching excellence and providing an exemplary university education, many Concordia professors across the disciplines have dedicated their research energies to the development of pedagogical materials and to the scholarship of learning and teaching.

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Part of the central educational objective of Concordia University College of Alberta is to develop in students a sense of vocation that is enriched by a high standard of morality and of ethical awareness. This link between ethical and moral principles and their effects on real-life experience is reflected in the scholarly interests of the faculty, many of whom are involved in research that has a direct social, economic, or cultural relevance and benefit.

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Concordia's focus on undergraduate studies in religion and its Master of Arts in Biblical and Christian Studies encourages a comprehensive approach to developing a high level of competence in research, writing, teaching and communication skills. Concordia also hosts the SSHRC funded Canadian Centre for Scholarship and the Christian Faith, led by Dr. Bill Anderson, that runs yearly conferences, disperses research grants, and runs the Canadian Journal for Scholarship and the Christian Faith. Members of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department have produced a number of notable

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- a) Gain Canadian Council on Animal Care certification for an Animal Care Committee to enable research involving animals.
- b) Review policy and functioning of the Research Ethics Board to ensure that it is adequately supported administratively and functions according to the TCPS2 and Concordia policy.
- c) Ensure that the nominee for the Tier 2 Canada Research Chair has a strong record of research in one of the four identified areas of institutional research strength.
- d) Safeguard academic freedom to allow faculty to conduct research and scholarly activities within the boundaries of their interests and the scope of their discipline.

Concordia supports faculty research and scholarship in the following ways:

1. Recognition that engaging in research and scholarship is something that all faculty members must do in order to fulfill their job requirements.
2. Administrative and infrastructure assistance and coordination from the Office of Research and Faculty Development.
3. Internal support for research through project funding. Awards are assigned on a competitive basis.
4. Financial support for conference and research travel.
5. The maintenance of a Visiting Research Professor program.
6. Time-release support through the policy for Reduction in Teaching Assignment for Research Purposes.
7. Time-release support through the policy for Sabbatical Leave.
8. Support for international research collaborations through Concordia's International Office.

The implementation of this Strategic Research Plan is the responsibility of the entire Concordia community. Specifically, it will be the responsibility of the Academic Research Council to evaluate the implementation and progress of the Strategic Research Plan. All faculty members are required to submit an annual report of professional activities, with research activities being reported to the Dean of Research and Faculty Development. These reports, plus the special reports required of the holders of research grants and the recipients of reductions in teaching, will allow the Academic Research Council to monitor and assess the relative success of Concordia's plan. Improvements in the following areas will serve as indicators of success:

1. The amount of internal and external funding to support research.
2. The number of faculty peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations.
3. The number of peer-reviewed research grants and awards (such as SSHRC, NSERC, and other external grants) won by faculty.
4. The number of research activities occurring in each of the identified areas of institutional research strength.
5. The hiring of a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair.
6. The level of faculty engagement in research and scholarly activities measured by an increase in overall percentage of faculty participating in such activities as indicated in the annual report.
7. The level of student participation and collaboration in faculty research projects.
8. The number of research collaborations, both with Concordia colleagues and with colleagues at other institutions, including international collaborations.
9. The further legitimization of scholarly activity. Faculty will have participated in demonstrating and documenting scholarly activity not necessarily resulting in formal publication.