

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC PERSONNEL (CAP)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)
Revised November 1, 2008

4. Is "service" an important category for assistant professors?

Much less than for higher ranks. CAP agrees with those departments that assign a relatively light service responsibility to assistant professors, who may think it unwise to decline any service requested of them. Assistant professors should take care not to become overburdened with service.

Still, a willingness to perform university service is welcome, and assistant professors will want to participate in various aspects of academic life. Knowledgeable reports from the department as to whether the service was conscientiously and ably performed is useful to CAP.

Professional service such as refereeing journal articles, chairing a panel at a meeting, or giving invited talks is evidence of impact on the field and therefore considered positively in any review.