

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Brenda L. Volling, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1990	Ph.D.	The Pennsylvania State University
1985	M.S.	The Pennsylvania State University
1982	B.S.	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Professional Record:

2000 – 2004	Chair, Undergraduate Studies in Psychology, University of Michigan
1999 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1999 – present	Faculty Associate, Life Course Development Program, Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan
1992 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1990 – 1992	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Postdoctoral Fellow, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Center, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1990 – 1992	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Teaching and mentoring are essential components of Professor Volling’s academic identity. Since her promotion in 1999, Professor Volling’s teaching efforts have focused more on service, organization, and mentoring than in formal classroom teaching. She served as Chair of Undergraduate Studies in Psychology. She also mentors individual students and has served on ten dissertation committees, six Master’s theses, and six Senior Honors’ theses committees.

Research – Professor Volling studies social development in infancy and preschool in the context of the family. She is one of the pioneers in the field to examine the role of social dynamics within the family in development. She currently has multiple grants from competing agencies, including a K02 award from the National Institute of Health. She is also publishing at a solid rate. Recent articles appear in strong specialized journals such as *Journal of Family Psychology* and *Personal Relationships*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Maternal and paternal gentle guidance and young children’s compliance from a within-family perspective,” with A. Y. Blandon, and B. J. Gorvine, *Journal of Family Psychology*, in press.

“Attachment security and parental sensitivity during infancy: Associations with friendship quality and false belief understanding at age 4,” with N. L. McElwain, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 21,2004, pp. 639-667.

“Parental emotional availability and infant emotional competence: Predictors of parent-infant attachment and emerging self-regulation,” with N. L. McElwain and P. C. Notaro, *Journal of Family Psychology*, 16, 2002, pp. 447-465.

“Emotion regulation in context: The jealousy complex between young siblings and its relations with child and family characteristics,” with N. L. McElwain and A. L. Miller, *Child Development*, 73, 2002, pp. 581-600.

Service – Professor Volling’s major service contribution to the Department over the last four years has been her role as Undergraduate Chair. During those years the concentration grew in size from 1,100 to 1,500 students. She reorganized the undergraduate curriculum, giving a logical structure to the psychology course numbers and making pre-requisites clear for students. She improved the academic rigor of our concentration and created several “interest clusters” of courses designed for students with various career goals giving structure to the sequence of courses students can take. Professor Volling has also served on admissions committees, chaired colloquia series, served on search committees, and served on the Department’s Augmented Executive Committee. At the University level she currently is on the University Senate Assembly; at a national level she serves on the editorial board of a major journal.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Her publication rate is high, and much of her work appears in top tier developmental journals. Her success in obtaining extramural support is quite exceptional and extremely impressive—in particular her career development award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).”

Reviewer (B)

“Dr. Volling has been a regular and influential contributor to the literature on individual development in the context of close relationships in families and peer groups. ...I have known and greatly respected her research for almost two decades. ... Dr. Volling’s record is one of steady productivity, the consistently high quality of which has been recognized by publication in first-rate journals.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Volling is a talented scholar who does complex, fascinating research that is an important and unique contribution to the field. I know of no one doing better work on siblings and/or fathers. She has a strong record of publication and of grant funding.”

Reviewer (D)

“I find her to have a broad interest in the area of social development and to have accomplished a great deal during her tenure at Michigan.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Volling has made singularly creative contributions to the study of all facets of the family system during infancy and early childhood, including mother-child, father-child, sibling, and spousal relations. Her work has provided foundational understanding of the mutually influential relationship between this system and key facets of development in early life.”

Reviewer (F)


“Dr. Volling has published extensively in the general area of early social-emotional development with a special interest in family systems. ...Volling’s scholarly work is first rate.”

Reviewer (G)

“...Brenda’s scholarly record is marked [by] creative and integrative thinking and by methodological rigor, she has a record of consistent publication in good journals, and most recently has received funding to pursue her work through two, highly competitive mechanisms. Brenda is clearly on an upward trajectory...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Volling is a productive and internationally respected scholar who cares deeply about teaching and service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Brenda L. Volling be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with tenure.



Terrence J. McDonald, Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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