Career Planning Guidelines for Doctoral Students Seeking Academic Careers

EARLY YEARS

Login to CareerConnect to update your profile
Explore the services OCPD offers (workshops, 1:1 appointments, and connecting with alumni)
Create or update your CV
Seek opportunity to gain experience as a teaching assistant
Get to know faculty members in your department
Seek opportunities to supervise undergraduate students
Connect with peers from many departments
Learn about student organizations at the School and University
Seek opportunities to apply for grants to support your research

MIDDLE YEARS

Begin attending professional association meetings in your field
When possible, participate in the hiring process for any new candidates for faculty position in you department such as attending their job talks
Discuss your career plans with your mentor, advisor, or career coach
Attend workshops and panels on applying for academic jobs and postdocs
Develop a robust LinkedIn profile, join groups, participate in discussion fora
Continue to apply for grants to support your research
Organize meetings and conferences for scholarly associations
Start a career log to record your thoughts on academic coursework & future goals

FINAL YEARS

Identify references and ask for letters of recommendation support
Research and apply for post-doctoral opportunities or faculty positions
Arrange to practice your job talk with faculty members and colleagues
Participate in the annual conference in your discipline
Make an appointment with a career coach to review your job application materials
Devote a significant amount of time to tailoring your application for each position
Arrange a mock interview with a career coach to polish your interview skills
Develop timeline and writing plan to meet dissertation deadlines

Read our weekly Career and Professional Development Update e-newsletter (sent on Sunday) to stay informed about upcoming programs, events and jobs that may be of interest. Our website also contains a calendar of our programs, job search tools and links Career Connect (our job listing database) and to other job listing sites.

