

A Companion Workbook

FACULTY CAREER STRATEGIES

How to Succeed on the Academic Job Market

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Faculty Career Strategies
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Welcome!

How to Use this Workbook

Thanks for joining us in *Faculty Career Strategies*!

At Beyond the Professoriate we know just how competitive the academic job market can be. And it can be hard to accept that many factors of the academic job search are beyond our control, such as the state of the academic job market.

While it's true that there's nothing you can do to increase the number and quality of job openings in your discipline, there are aspects of the search that you *can* still influence. For instance, you can decide what's important to you in a job search, strategically gather information, and improve your written documents and presentations.

As we coach you through your faculty job search, we'll be focusing on what is within your power to guide and influence.

In this **three-unit** course, we'll help you launch your faculty job search by means of instructional video content, and exercises tailored for you.

In this course, you'll learn:

- whether the academic job market is right for you;
- how to tailor your job applications for careers at various types of institutions;
- how to prepare for academic interviews;
- and how to negotiate an academic job offer.

Each instructional webinar is accompanied by guiding questions and exercises to help you apply what you've learned. We recommend that you download this form fillable PDF workbook and type out (or write out!) your answers as you work through the course. The workbook is yours to keep and refer back to whenever you should need it.

Happy learning!

L. Maren Wood, PhD

L. Maren Wood | Founder of Beyond the Professoriate



Unit 1

HOW TO MAKE AN INFORMED CAREER DECISION



A Note from Maren

What to Expect in Unit 1

As a graduate student, you are likely used to being told that an academic career is the only post-graduation path worth pursuing. Most PhD graduates aspire to follow in their advisor's footsteps by working in a similar type of institution, typically a research-intensive university.

Before jumping into academic job documents (don't worry, we'll get to this part later, in Unit 2), we'd like to encourage you to take some time to reflect on your career path.

In a nutshell, we'd like you to ask yourself whether a faculty career is right for you. And if it is, whether you have the resources and support network to begin a search at this time.

It's important to do this self-assessment at the beginning, so that you enter the job market fully aware of your options and of the resources that an academic job search might require.

This unit will cover three essential topics:

- We'll help you **explore your motivations and readiness for the academic job market**
- You'll gain a deeper understanding of **what faculty careers look like at various types of institutions** (i.e. research-intensive vs. teaching-intensive vs. comprehensive universities) through **requesting and conducting informational interviews**
- You'll learn **why networking is so important even in academia** and **how to strengthen your professional network without feeling uncomfortable**.

We're challenging you from the start, but we know you can do it!

Let's get started,

L. Maren Wood, PhD

Webinar: How to Decide When to Go on the Academic Job Market

After watching this webinar, you will be able to:

- Identify the four key steps to determining when to go on the academic job market.
- Articulate your goals for going on the academic job market.
- Assess how prepared you are for the job search.
- Align your priority next steps with the academic hiring timelines.

Questions to consider

How can you clarify your goals?

How can you determine if you are ready?

How can you maximize your readiness?

What can you do to align your next steps with the hiring timeline?

Your academic job market goals

Begin identifying your goals for going on the academic job market by answering the guiding questions below.

Why do you want to enter the job market?

What are the ultimate goals associated with those reasons?

What is your primary or most important goal?

Are you ready for the academic job market?

Using the self-assessment questions provided in the seminar, determine whether you are ready to go on the academic job market.

How would you create and describe required work products and experience?

What types of emotional and social resources can you access?

How would this decision impact your responsibilities?

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