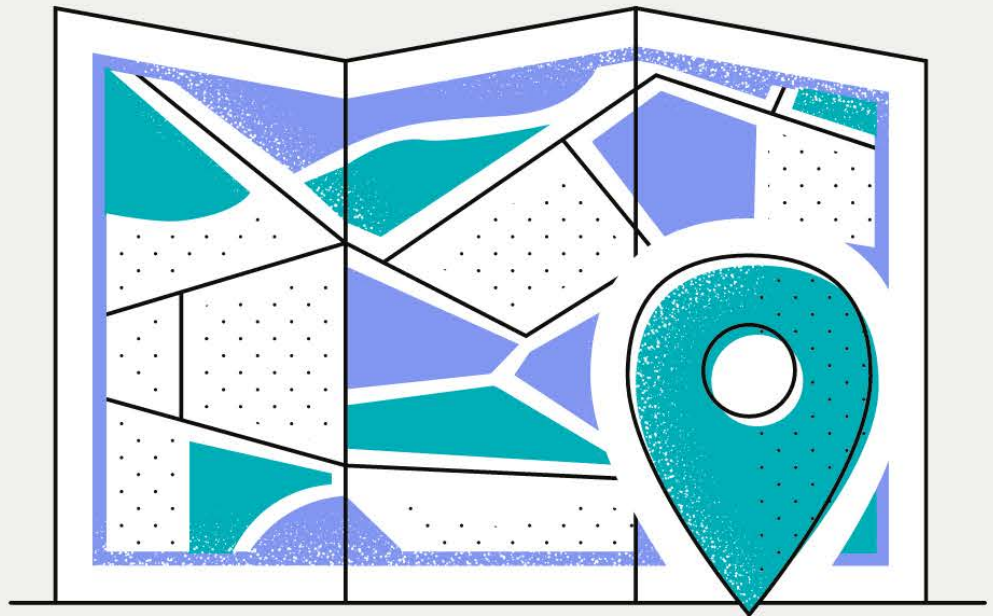


# PIVOT

A companion workbook to help you determine when and how to make your pivot out of academia.

Sample only.

Subscribe to the Beyond Prof PhD Career Training Platform to access full workbook.



**BEYOND**  
THE PROFESSORiate

Faculty Careers Program of Study: Pivot Stage  
Published by The Center for Graduate Career Success  
PO Box 6811 Denver, CO, 80206

<https://gradcareersuccess.com/>

© 2023 The Center for Graduate Career Success, Inc.

All rights reserved.

This workbook is provided to you as part of your access to the PhD Career Training Platform by Beyond the Professoriate.

Forwarding, sharing, copying, duplicating, uploading, reproducing, or transmitting any portion of this workbook in any format is a violation of the terms of use you accepted prior to accessing the website:  
[institutions.beyondprof.com](https://institutions.beyondprof.com).

These workbooks are a companion to Beyond the Professoriate videos available in the PhD Career Training Platform. Use of these worksheets independent of Beyond the Professoriate videos and programming is in violation of the terms of use.

No portion of this workbook may be reproduced in any form without permission from The Center for Graduate Career Success.

Contact: [member@beyondprof.com](mailto:member@beyondprof.com)

# Table of Contents

<b>How to Make the Most Out of This Workbook</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Lesson 1: Should I go another year on the academic job market?</b>	<b>5</b>
Activities	5
Calculate the Costs of Staying in Academia	5
Determine if staying an additional year help you succeed	8
Re-evaluate your options. Is a faculty career the right fit for you?	10
<b>Lesson 2: How to pivot out of academia</b>	<b>12</b>
Activities	12
Plan Your Pivot	12
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>16</b>
Sample questions to ask during informational interviews	16

# How to Make the Most Out of This Workbook

This workbook is designed to accompany video lessons in the Pivot Module of the Faculty Careers Program of Study.

Completing this module and these activities will first help you decide if you should go another year on the academic job market. There are then reflective activities and exercises to help you move forward in your pivot out of academia.

If you're still feeling lost after having made the decision to leave, we have a lesson with tips and strategies to help you address these unique challenges as you make this career transition.

As you watch the video lessons, take time to pause the videos when prompted and complete the activities in this workbook. Doing so will help you apply what you're learning to your own unique experience with the academic job market, and help you to make an informed decision moving forward.

-Your Beyond The Professoriate Team-

# Lesson 1: Should I go another year on the academic job market?

## Activities

### Calculate the Costs of Staying in Academia

Let's first calculate the financial costs of staying in academia. First, complete the budgeting worksheet below. Fill in your current budgeted amount for each monthly expense. Calculate the total.

<b>Monthly Expense</b>	<b>Current Budgeted Amount</b>
Housing (Rent or Mortgage)	
Utilities (Gas, Hydro, Water)	
Phone and Internet	
Student Loans	
Other Debt	
Groceries	
Clothing	
Personal Supplies	
Entertainment	
Childcare	
Healthcare	
Savings	
Retirement Savings	
Travel	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	

Will you be able to cover your expenses if you continue in an academic position (ie. as an adjunct or postdoc) for another year?

Next, reflect on the effects staying in academia would have on your future personal and career goals. First, what are your personal and career goals? Ie. do you want to buy a house, or move closer to family? Do you want to pay off debt, or start saving for retirement? Do you want to expand your family?

What does staying in academia an additional year mean for you in terms of being able to meet those goals?

If you moved into a nonacademic role instead of staying in academia another year, what salary would you expect to make? Do some research to help you determine this.

If you are in the biological life sciences, consult the study cited in the lesson (Kahn, S., Ginther, D. The impact of postdoctoral training on early careers in biomedicine. *Nat Biotechnol* 35, 90–94 (2017)).

If you are in other fields, what careers do you know of that other PhDs have moved into? Look up online what the average salary for those careers would be.

How would moving into these careers with these salaries affect your ability to meet your previously stated goals?

## Determine if staying an additional year help you succeed

Many PhDs consider staying an additional year in academia because they think it will help them become a more competitive candidate on the academic job market and increase their likelihood of landing a faculty position.

Take a moment to reflect on your experience going on the academic job market. Answer the questions below. What was your success rate this year? How competitive was the job market?

1. How many positions did you reasonably qualify for? How many did you apply to?
2. How many screening interviews did you complete? What was your success rate (# interviews / # of positions applied to)?
3. Did you move forward to the campus visit stage? How many invitations did you receive? What was your success rate (# campus visit invitations / # of positions applied to)?
4. Were you offered any positions?



Next, do some research on who was hired for the positions you applied to. This will help you determine if staying an additional year in academia would indeed make you a more competitive candidate next year.

1. Search for PhDs who were recently hired for the positions you applied to. List some examples below.

2. What experience did the candidates have? Where did they earn their PhD? How many publications did they have?

3. Based on your credentials and experience, were you a competitive candidate for these positions?

4. Would staying in academia help you to become a more competitive candidate?

**BEYOND**  
THE PROFESSORiate