

GTP Spring Conference: Considering Non-Academic Career Possibilities

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Non Academic Career Planning



An Example

3 years into PhD. Finding that research was unfulfilling. Knew 5 things:

- The research he was doing was interesting, but he felt confined to one tiny step in the process
- Wanted to offer something helpful to humanity
- Wanted to be involved in the entire process of developing that helpful thing
- Wanted to make that something “helpful” very accessible
- Loves data analysis and statistics

An Example

- Advanced skill sets: Can explain complex science concepts clearly, lots data analysis experience, good with people, comfortable with math, some interest in computer programming but not much “official experience”
- Family and friends suggested consulting
- Heard LinkedIn was helpful
- Knew he may need to “work his way up”
- Found a posting for a junior consulting internship on LinkedIn.com, applied, offered an interview
- Conflicted: Not in a city where he wanted to live (not sure if FT positions were available there either), wasn't too clear what the job entailed, started to realize it was hard to even know if he was interested. Answering interview questions became a lot more difficult

Get Clear on 3 Things

- Who you are (values/personality)
- What you want/need
- What you have to offer (skill sets/strengths)

Questions for Reflection

- What is leading you to consider work outside of academia?
- What drives you as a person?
- What do you NEED in your work to be content? What are elements needed to fit with your personal life (e.g. location, schedule that fits with family...)?
- Are there themes that run through your life? Interests that have persisted regardless of context?
(Populations/subjects/issues/products/efforts/activities)
- Are there elements in your work life now that you want to leave behind?
- What skill sets have you developed through your grad work or previous work? (Now deconstruct those “skills”, e.g. What does “teaching” actually include? Which of those activities do you want to continue?)

Teaching is Preparation for Any Career

- **Building teams in class**
- **Evaluating students**
- **Giving feedback to students**
- **Understanding students learning styles**
- **Organizing your class and the semester**
- **Networking for academic success**

- **Building teams at work**
- **Evaluating employees**
- **Giving employees feedback**
- **Understanding employees' differences**
- **Organizing the company**
- **Networking for alliances**

CAREER FIELDS BY SKILLS

Margaret Locke Newhouse, Ph.D., *Outside the Ivory Tower: A Guide for Academics Considering Alternative Careers*

Skill and Career Field	Research Analysis	Problem Solving	Writing Communication	Administration Management	People Skills	Teaching Presenting Inspiring	International Expertise (Area Studies, Languages, Ind. Exp.)	Technical/ Scientific Skills Computer Programming	Arts & other Creative Skills
Business & Finance	R & D (e.g., bio & high tech), risk analysis (financial inst.), market research, consulting	consulting, marketing, management	corporate, communications analysis, advertising & PR	management positions reached from line positions in specific companies	consulting, human resources, sales, management, training & development	sales, training & development	cultural consulting, intl. business, country risk analysis in financial institutions	info. systems, R&D, CAD, actuarial, consulting on scientific/tech. matters, software co.'s	advertising, computer music, technical illustration
Media	journalism, market research	investigative reporting, PR, management, specialty consulting	journalism, writing, editing, publishing, advertising & PR	editing, publishing, corporate communications, management	sales/ marketing in publishing, interviewing	sales, advertising, radio/TV, journalism	specialty publishing, foreign desk of various media	specialty publishing, professional journals	specialty publishing, criticism, dramaturgy, art, illustration, writing, photography
Education	research centers, educational research & evaluation, archival work	academic administration (e.g., principal, headmaster, college dean), educational consulting	publishing (specialized, educational), reporting, writing	academic administration (e.g. principal headmaster, college dean)	student services (e.g., counseling), academic administration, educational consulting	teaching (adult ed., secondary, community colleges), freelance lecturing	international education, curriculum development, educational tours, conferences	computers in education, curriculum development	arts education in various settings
Non-profit Public Service and Arts	organizations with research efforts, think tanks, research centers, foundations	management, non-profit consulting, think tanks	PR, newsletter editing for nonprofit or professional publications	administration, management, development (events planning), foundation program mgmt.	development, management, advocacy	public education, development, community organizing	non-profit orgs. (country of region specific), consulting on intl. health & welfare	R&D, info. systems, consulting for hospitals & other nonprofits, environ. groups	community arts orgs., specialty museums, art/drama/dance/m music therapy
Public Policy	Congressional Research Service, analytic division of state or local agency	most higher-level govt. positions, political/policy research, political consulting	speech and report writing for government agencies or interest groups	administration of various public agencies, program management	politics (as candidate or staff), fundraising, lobbying	politics, executive branch position, fundraising, interest groups	international orgs., federal agencies, Congressional staff, policy, think tanks, Peace Corps	national labs, EPA, NSF, NIH, Census, OTA, intl. scientific agencies	administration of arts agencies, organization (e.g., NEA, state arts councils)

Understanding the Field

What types of jobs are in the field? Are there specializations? What types of companies hire for those jobs? What do the salaries look like? Are there trainings or certifications required? Are there geographical regions in which those jobs are primarily located?

Resources

Online: Bureau of Labor Statistics-Occupational Outlook Handbook, O*Net, CU Career Services Industry Guides, Career One Stop (Dept of Labor), Hoover's Online (database through library)

Hands-On: Internships, academic/industry collaboration, volunteering, PT work


Conversation: Personal network, LinkedIn, Alumni

Networking: Efficiency in the Job Search

Finding opportunities

Networking

- The power of the hidden job market
- Online Listings
 - Large Databases: Indeed.com, Career Buffs, Career One Stop
 - Smaller Databases: Riley Guide, PhDs.org, handout

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, and the much larger base is submerged below the surface. The sky is blue with light clouds, and the water is a deep blue. The text 'Open job market' is positioned above the water line, and 'Hidden market' is positioned below the water line.

Open job market

Hidden market



Column "A"

Friends
Family
Classmates
Co-workers
Professors

Column "B"

Friends of friends
Alumni
Professionals
Neighbors
Service providers

Column "C"

New contacts

Non Academic Career Planning



The Professional Development Certificate for Business, Government, Industry & Arts (PDC:BGIA)

It's important to realize that professional development is also invaluable to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows wanting to pursue a career outside academia. Leaders in business, government, industry, and the nonprofit sector want to hire graduate students or postdoctoral fellows who have demonstrated higher level organizational skills and an investment in their own professional development.



The Graduate Teacher Program in collaboration with Career Services administers the Professional Development Certificate for Business, Government, Industry or the Arts. This collaborative program engages graduate student participants in participation in both the Graduate Teacher Program and Career Services activities because we believe that teaching experience and content knowledge are valuable skill sets in the nonacademic market.

[Application Form](#)

[Internship Learning Plan](#)

[PDC:BGIA Attendance Tracker](#)

[Professional Portfolio](#)

Certificates

[Certificate in College Teaching \(CCT\)](#)

Professional Development Certificate for Business, Government, Industry & Arts (PDC:BGIA)

[Professional Development Certificate for Preparing Future Faculty \(PDC:PFF\)](#)

Home / Graduate Students

Graduate Students



Graduate Teacher Program Workshops

The Graduate Teacher Program offers 6 series of workshops each week throughout the semester in 200 ATLAS.

Graduate Students

Outside Academia

Inside Academia

Workshops & Events

Resources



Grad Student Login

Meet With a Career Counselor

Job Opportunities

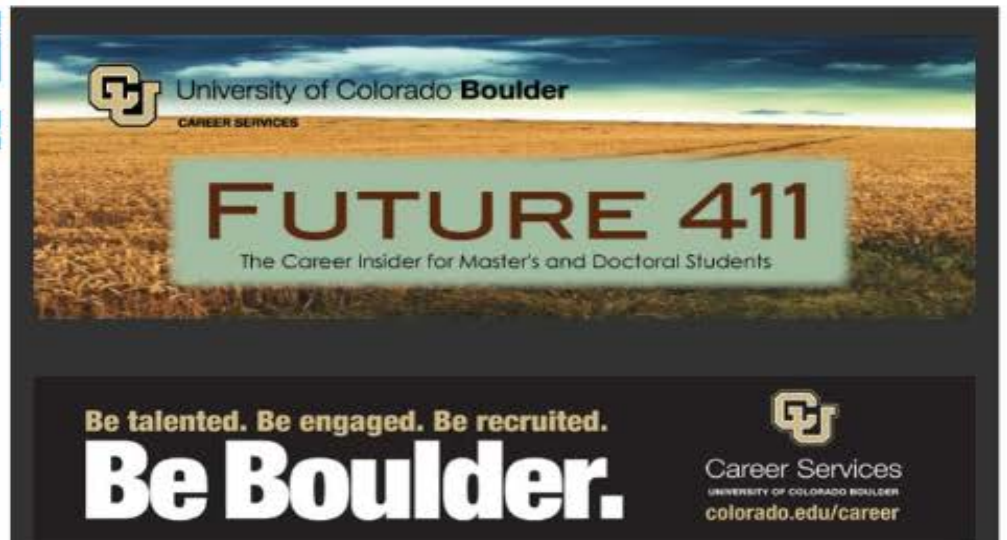
Website
Job & Event Database
Monthly Newsletter
Department Workshops

 Chemical and Biological Engineering
Graduate Student Professional Development Series presents
A Workshop on Job Search Skills and Career Networking
with Annie Piatt, Graduate Student Career Counselor




Friday, September 20th, 12-1pm
JSCBB B115
All graduate students are welcome!
RSVP at surveyMonkey.com/s/TWVFBM6
for Free Lunch!
Contact Blake (blake.langdon@colorado.edu) for more info.

Career Services and the CU-Boulder Graduate School know **the future matters** for graduate students because your academic, personal and professional success matters. We welcome students from all graduate programs on campus, supporting master's and doctoral students as well as postdocs.

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Reference Books on Non-Academic Careers

- Debelius, Maggie and Basalla, Susan Elizabeth. **So What Are You Going to Do With That?: A Guide for M.A.'s and Ph.D.'s Seeking Careers Outside the Academy (revised ed.)**. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press (2007). Two English Ph.D.s cover the transition to the "post-academic" world. The authors offer both specific advice about job-hunting and provide a general, often-humorous perspective on the process of moving out of academia.
- Fisher, Donna and Vilas, Sandy. **Power Networking: 59 Secrets for Personal and Professional Success**. Marietta, GA., Bard Press (2000). Offers a self assessment questionnaire to identify your strengths and areas for improvement in ten networking competency areas. Provides practical recommendations for improvement.
- Newhouse, Margaret. **Outside the Ivory Tower: A Guide for Academics Considering Alternative Careers**. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press (1993). Deals with the step-by-step psycho-social and practical aspects of making the transition to alternative professional careers.
- Robbins-Roth, Cynthia. **Alternative Careers in Science: Leaving the Ivory Tower (2nd ed.)**. San Diego, CA., Academic Press (2006). Offers guidance for graduate students and post doctorates who are considering careers outside the lab.
- Ryan, Robin. **60 Seconds & You're Hired!(3rd ed.)**. New York: Penguin Group (2008). Filled with insider's tips from managers, human resource professionals and with real-life success stories. Presents strategies for success in your next interview including questions, best responses, common pitfalls and negotiating salaries.
- Ryan, Robin. **Soaring On Your Strengths**. New York: Penguin Group (2006). Provides a step-by-step process to help you identify your marketable qualities and use that knowledge to promote and brand yourself for the best jobs and promotions. You establish an appealing career identity.
- Young-Kreeger, Karen. **Nontraditional Careers in Science**. Philadelphia, PA., George H. Buchanan Company (1998). A guide with practical advice and stories from dozens of scientists and professionals in non-