

EXERCISE 1: What Kind of Academic Do I Want to Be?

Exercise: Spend the next 20 minutes writing a list of “must-haves”, “maybe-haves” and “do not wants” for your future occupation. Consider the things that you value about your work, but DO NOT FORGET what makes you fulfilled outside of work. Instead of thinking about what you want to do, think about who you want to be. Picture how your identity will change as a result of your decision. Often, there is no *right* answer. Every decision involves some kind of compromise. The point here is to determine where you are able to compromise and where you are not able to. Some questions to think about:

- how much do you value having a choice of where you live?
- how many in-house colleagues would make you happy?
- how much do you value having solitary time to think and work every day?
- do you enjoy project management and leadership?
- are you interested in teaching beyond your specialty?
- what value do you place on earning potential?
- how much time do you want to spend with one-on-one mentoring of students?
- how important is it for you to have access to top students?
- are you interested in diversifying your teaching methods?
- how important is it for you to be considered at the top of your field?
- how important is a stimulating, enriching and diverse campus life?
- are there hobbies you can take up that allow you to stay in touch with something you might otherwise miss in an academic job that is not your 1st choice?
- what core skills do you possess that you want to use in a future job setting?
- what important hobbies do you wish to pursue outside of employment?

Must Haves	Maybe Haves	Do Not Wants