

Preparing future faculty

EAS - 8801

Fall 2017

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Friday 12.20 – 1.10 pm ES&T L1105

Learning outcomes

If you are considering beginning your career as a faculty member in a science related discipline, you are probably wondering how to start and then establish a successful career in academia. This seminar course will guide you through some of the steps you may need to take to achieve your goals.

Format

Each class will consist of a short presentation, often accompanied by a reading. Plenty of time will be devoted to discussion. It is supposed to be an interactive seminar. Be ready to actively participate.

No homework but preparing a CV and/or a research or teaching statement to share for discussion/suggestions is highly recommended. Pass or Fail only.

Audience

Seminar course for graduate students in any of the disciplines represented in the College of Science interested in pursuing an academic career.

Requirements

Participation in class discussions and 70% attendance are required for a Passing grade. The Institute Absence policy is available at: www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/

Participation grades will be posted monthly and will be evaluated as follows:

- 90-100%: always attend, participating often by asking questions or actively working with classmates on in class exercises.
- 80-90%: Less than two unexcused absences, participating often
- 70-80%: 2 to 4 unexcused absences, participating in class activities
- < 70%: More than 4 unexcused absences. Likely irregular participation.

Outline

Week 1-2: Before you start

Planning ahead is important.

The structure of Academic career.

Scope of faculty responsibilities: Teaching vs research institutions

Week 3-7: The job search

- Deciding when and where to apply
- Preparing a CV and a research portfolio
- Letters of recommendation
- The interview process
- Negotiating

Week 8-10: Teaching experience

- Designing a course
- Daily class planning
- Alternative teaching methods
- Preparing a teaching portfolio
- Advising and mentoring graduate students

Week 11: Fall Break

Week 12-16: Your Research Program

- Professional ethics
- The importance of advisors and professional networks
- External funding and grant proposals (how to write a NSF research proposal)
- Developing a network of professional colleagues
- Public outreach and engaging the media
- Time management
- Balancing family and career

Academic Integrity:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating, lying about course matters, plagiarism, or helping others commit a violation of the Honor Code. Some exams (when specifically announced in class) allow the use of self-prepared supporting information (one sheet of paper, either typed or handwritten, could be double-sided); no other support materials are allowed at tests. Plagiarism includes reproducing the words of others without both the use of quotation marks and citation. Students are reminded of the obligations and expectations associated with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code and Student Code of Conduct, available online at www.honor.gatech.edu.

Learning Accommodations:

If needed, we will make classroom accommodations for students with documented disabilities. These accommodations must be arranged in advance and in accordance with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu>).