

The Research and Academic Job Market: How Does One Find Such a Job?

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What are the jobs in question?

Academia

Teaching at 2-year colleges
4-year colleges, research minimal (but it exists)
College/Universities with Graduate Programs

Private/Corporate Research

Research Institutes (private)
Corporate Laboratories
Advocacy Corporations
Private/Public Partnerships (usually university/corporate)

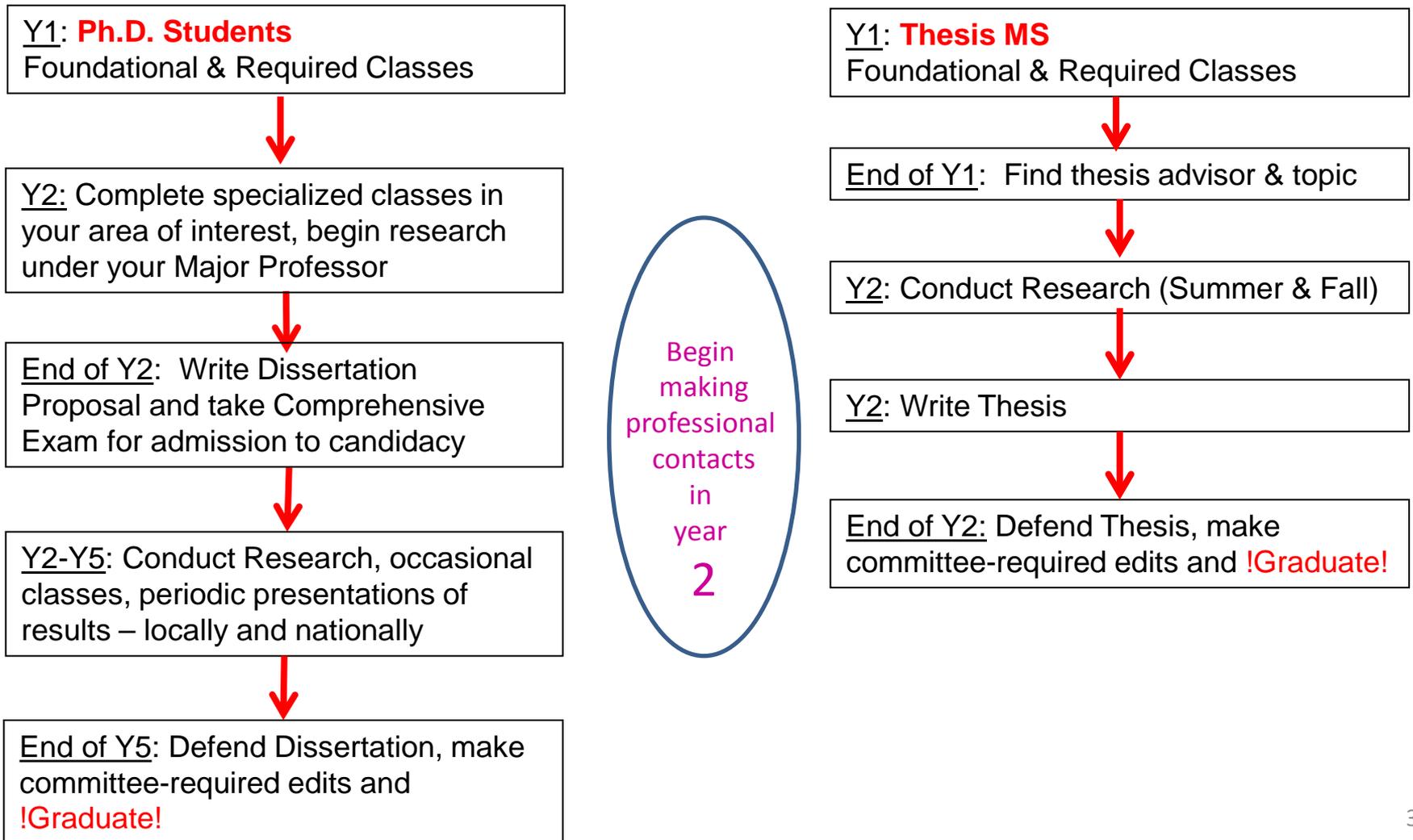
Governmental Research

Research Institutes (Federal or State)
Federal or State Laboratories
Federal or State Agencies

International Research

International Agencies (U.N. – such as the International Atomic Energy Agency)

What is the Timeline or Sequence of Events?



What are the jobs in Academia?

- Teaching at 2-year colleges
- 4-year colleges, research minimal (but it exists)
- College/Universities with Graduate Programs
- There are four kinds of entry-level jobs in this sector:
 - Post-docs
 - Technicians / Staff
 - Non tenure-track faculty
 - Tenure-track faculty

The search depends on the job:

- Teaching at 2-year colleges
- Here, almost invariably, one finds these jobs via advertisements:
 - www.HigherEdJobs.com is the single best source for such jobs:
 - or
 - www.AcademicKeys.com

Engineering

✕ Community College only

CREATE A JOB AGENT

EXPAND SEARCH

Sort by:

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Results 1 - 25 of 135 < >

Adjunct Instructor, Computer Information Systems

Texas Southmost College

Brownsville, TX

Computer Engineering

Posted 02/02/16

Instructor, Computer Science

Texas Southmost College

Brownsville, TX

Computer Engineering

Posted 02/02/16

The search depends on the job:

- 4-year colleges, research minimal (but it exists)

OR

- College/Universities with Graduate Programs

For Technicians / Staff positions, these jobs are often found by:

- Who you know - via professional contacts that you have developed, or via contacts your major professor and/or committee members have, or
- The traditional advertisements found at www.HigherEdJobs.com or trade journals in your field.

The search depends on the job:

- 4-year colleges, research minimal (but it exists)

OR

- College/Universities with Graduate Programs

For Post-Doctoral positions, these jobs are often found by:

- Who you know - via professional contacts that you have developed, or (especially) via contacts your major professor and/or committee members have. In this scenario, one often writes to one's contacts (or their academic units) and inquires about the potential for a post-doc.
- To a lesser extent, the traditional advertisements found in trade journals in your field.

What is a "Post-Doc"? It is a 1-3 year research position, typically funded by a grant or contract, under the supervision of a faculty member. Its purpose (for the post-doc) is to expand the research horizons of the post-doc without the pressures of teaching, landing grants, or tenure & promotion.

The search depends on the job:

- 4-year colleges, research minimal (but it exists)
- OR
- College/Universities with Graduate Programs

For tenure-track or non tenure-track positions, these jobs are almost invariably found by the traditional advertisements found in trade journals in your field, or in HigherEdJobs.com.

A KEY difference with these sort of jobs is that these are long-term hires (sometimes for decades) for the university/college and, thus, the search committee will fully expect that your cover letter reflects your having done your homework about the department that you are applying to and have “**painted a picture**” about how you would fit in with that department. That is, you should make it easy for the committee to know the how, why and what of your “fit” within the department.

What is a “tenure-track”? It is a status that one earns, typically after 6 years at a college or university, that protects one from arbitrary layoffs, firings and the like. Non tenure-track faculty have no such protection.

What are the jobs in **Governmental Research**

- Research Institutes (Federal or State)
- Federal or State Laboratories
- Federal or State Agencies

- There are three kinds of beginning jobs in this sector:
 - Post-docs
 - Technicians / Staff
 - Staff Scientists (“faculty”)

What are the jobs in **Governmental Research**

- Research Institutes (Federal or State)
- Federal or State Laboratories
- Federal or State Agencies

Nearly ALL federal agencies and ALL states have research labs associated with them: DOE, DoD, NASA, NIH, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Agriculture,

The search depends on the job:

For Technicians / Staff positions, these jobs are often found by:

- Who you know - via professional contacts that you have developed, or via contacts your major professor and/or committee members have, or
- The traditional advertisements found in trade journals in your field, or federal web-sites that advertise job opportunities.
- Unsolicited letters/e-mails to leaders of research programs in in these laboratories also can be effective, **especially** if your letter reflects that you have done your HW about the lab.

The search depends on the job:

For Post-Doctoral positions, these jobs are often found by:

- Who you know - via professional contacts that you have developed, or (especially) via contacts your major professor and/or committee members have. In this scenario, one often writes to one's contacts (or their academic units) and inquires about the potential for a post-doc.
- To a lesser extent, the traditional advertisements found in trade journals in your field or federal web-sites that advertise job opportunities.
- Unsolicited letters/e-mails to leaders of research programs in in these laboratories also can be effective, **especially** if your letter reflects that you have done your HW about the lab.

The search depends on the job:

For staff scientist positions, these jobs are often found by:

- The traditional advertisements found in trade journals in your field or federal web-sites that advertise job opportunities.
- Unsolicited letters/e-mails to leaders of research programs in in these laboratories also can be effective, especially if your letter reflects that you have done your HW about the lab.
- A KEY difference with these sort of jobs is that these are long-term hires (sometimes for decades) for the laboratory and, thus, the hiring person/committee will fully expect that your cover letter reflects your having done your homework about the department that you are applying to and have “**painted a picture**” about how you would fit in with that department. That is, you should make it easy for the committee to know the how, why and what of your “fit” within the department.

What about Private/Corporate Research? Or International Research entities?

- Research Institutes (private)
- Corporate Laboratories
- Advocacy Corporations
- Private/Public Partnerships (usually university/corporate)
- There are three kinds of entry-level jobs in this sector:
 - Post-docs
 - Technicians / Staff
 - Staff Scientists

What about Private/Corporate Research? Or International Research entities?

- There are three kinds of entry-level jobs in this sector:
 - Post-docs
 - Technicians / Staff
 - Staff Scientists

Finding these positions is VERY MUCH like finding the positions at a federal/state laboratory. And like positions in federal/state labs, the higher the level that you seek, the more HW that you should do up-front and incorporate into your letter.

Questions?