

Advice for Early Career Faculty: Job Market

From the Society for the Teaching of Psychology Early
Career Psychologists Committee

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Early Career Psychologists Committee
SOCIETY FOR THE TEACHING OF PSYCHOLOGY

<http://teachpsych.org/ecp>

Today's Symposium

1. Unpredictable job markets & flexibility (Bethany)
2. When preparation meets opportunity (Angela)
3. Application materials, interviewing, &
negotiating (Jordan)
4. Backup plans (Heather)

Bethany's story & Advice

- Availability of funding for tenure track lines?
 - Consider a visiting professor line
- I have learned that sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place.
 1. Maintain strong relationships with your former colleagues, peers, and advisors who can be instrumental to your success.
 2. Keep an ear to the ground for temporary opportunities that will help you build your credentials and may perhaps become a full-time position.

Bethany's story & Advice

1. If possible, teach at other institutions while in graduate school to collect varied teaching experience.
2. Try to obtain service and/or committee work.
3. Present at as many conferences as possible and network with potential employers.
4. Review for journals and conferences.
5. Put in face-time in the office. This can result in unexpected opportunities (e.g., publications or recommendations for future positions).

Angela's Story & Advice

- You might choose the job market...or the job market might choose you
 - Be prepared for unexpected opportunities
- Angela's "2-4-6-8 Cheer"
 - Research - 2 lines, last 4 years, 68 second spiel
 - Teaching - 2 top assignments, 4 courses you can teach, 6-8 ways you're unique
 - Future plans - what is your ideal self doing 2, 4, 6, 8 years from now?
- Teaching philosophy
 - What makes you unique?
 - No, really...what makes you unique?

Background Information

Went to Albion College (2002-2006)

Applied nationally for first full-time faculty position in 2010/2011

Finished PhD in summer 2012

(after 1 year of full-time experience at Widener University)

3 years as a visiting assistant professor at Widener

In 2014, after another national job search, began at Sewanee: The University of the South

Experiences I could talk about

Selective liberal arts schools, regional universities

Tailoring cover letters

Seeking strong letters of recommendation

CV design

Research and publishing with undergraduates

Questions during the interview

“The search committee side” of the interview

Negotiations once you have an offer

Plan B, C, D, E, F.....well, you get the point

- Keep a story in mind
 - Teaching
 - Consulting
 - Publishing
 - Skill building
 - Healing sick children
- \$\$\$\$\$\$ Problems
 - Defer student loans
 - Research assistant
 - Tutor
 - Curriculum creation
 - Adjunct

Transferable Skills

- Leadership skills
 - Supervising, managing, evaluating, motivating others



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Transferable Skills

- Communication skills
 - Advising, public speaking, writing, editing



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Transferable Skills

- Organization skills
 - Time management, meeting deadlines, attaining goals

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