Demystifying the Faculty Job Search

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DEL Talk
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Topics

• Why Become a Professor?
• Faculty Job Types
• Finding Faculty Jobs
• Applying to Faculty Jobs
Reasons to Become a Professor

• To teach, advise, and mentor bright students

• To work freely on cool problems of your choosing

• To continue learning throughout your career

• To have a flexible schedule
Based on 2010 Carnegie Classifications

Different Institutions

Distribution of Institutions (4,634)
- Associates: 41
- Masters: 16
- Bachelors: 17
- Special Focus: 19
- Doctorate: 6

Distribution of Students (20,727,586)
- Associates: 39
- Masters: 23
- Bachelors: 7
- Special Focus: 3
- Doctorate: 28
Different Responsibilities

Research (R1) Institution

- Research
- Teaching
- Service

Teaching Institution

- Research
- Teaching
- Service
Different Pathways

Tenure or Tenure Track
- Assistant Professor
- Associate Professor
- Full Professor

Non-Tenure Track
- Lecturer/Adjunct Professor
Finding faculty jobs is ... 
a lot like finding **industry jobs**

Applying to faculty jobs is ... 
a lot like applying to **grad schools**
Finding Faculty Jobs

School Websites

Eng Ed Jobs Website

Higher Ed Jobs Websites

Also: me_job_postings@mailman.stanford.edu

networking at conferences

letting your colleagues know you’re looking
Applying to Faculty Jobs

• Process From Your POV
  – Ads typically released Aug.-Nov. and March-April
  – Applications due typically due 1-3 months later
  – Decisions can take up to 6 months or more
Applying to Faculty Jobs

• Timeline from Their POV
  – Divide and conquer applications
  – Individually, sort into yes/no/maybe
  – As a group, discuss and sort into yes/no/maybe
  – Invite the “yes” candidates
  – Vote on the “maybe” candidates
  – Decline the “no” candidates
Applying to Faculty Jobs

Three Tenure-Track Positions
School of Engineering Education

The School of Engineering Education (ENEE) within the College of Engineering invites applications for three full-time, tenure-track positions at the rank of assistant or associate professor.

The School is vibrant, young and growing community of scholars who are engaged in ways of transforming engineering education based on scholarship and research. The programs we administer include the first-year engineering program for 2,500 students, an undergraduate program in multidisciplinary engineering, a program in interdisciplinary engineering studies and a PhD program in engineering education. The research interests of our faculty are very diverse and span aspects of engineering education from pre-kindergarten through college and into engineering practice. We have an Institute for P-12 Engineering Research and Learning (INSPRI), a variety of labs and a research programme focused on engineering students and are planning a research center focused on learning in industry. A summary of our current research can be found at https://engineering.purdue.edu/ENEE/Research.

Applicants should hold an earned doctorate in engineering or education or related discipline and at least one degree in engineering with expertise in engineering education research. Commendations with the rank, we seek individuals who have either established themselves in a field of research congruent with the mission and goals of the school or have demonstrated the potential to do so. Successful candidates will have demonstrated commitment to diversity, collegiality, and excellence. They will be expected to teach in our undergraduate programs, including first-year engineering, and our graduate program and develop a nationally recognized, externally funded research program in engineering education.

Review of applications will begin on November 4, 2013 and continue until a successful candidate is identified.

Applicants must provide:
1) Letter of application emphasizing ability to carry out the responsibilities of the position
2) Detailed vitae of qualifications and experience
3) Statement of career objectives and your vision for engineering education
4) Statement of education philosophy and plans for graduate and undergraduate courses
5) Statement of research plan
6) Upon request, at least three references must be provided.

Applications must be submitted online at the following site: https://engineering.purdue.edu/ENEE/EngineeringEducation
A background check is required for employment in this position. For questions regarding the application process, please contact Marion Rakaj, Faculty Recruitment Coordinator, College of Engineering (marionr@purdue.edu). Questions regarding the position should be addressed to Professor David Rodolfa, Associate Head (davidro@purdue.edu).

Purdue University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer fully committed to achieving a diverse workforce.
Cover Letter (aka Letter of Application)

• 1-2 page summary of why you’re awesome
• Includes research and teaching, but also other important items covered in your CV
• Helps the search committee decide yes/no/maybe (and might be the only document they look at)

TIPS:

1. Write this document last, based on your other materials
2. Ask someone who knows you well to read it – did you miss anything important?
Curriculum Vitae (aka CV or Resume)

• Up to 6 pages of your achievements and experiences
• Uses standard categories like “Education”, “Awards”, “Research Experience”, “Teaching Experience” etc.
• Use your judgment about what to emphasize

TIPS:
1. Update your CV any time you have a new achievement or experience so you don’t forget what you did
2. Have someone proofread it before you submit
3. Go for quality over quantity
Teaching Statement (aka Teaching Philosophy)

• 1-2 page summary of how you teach, what you’ve taught, and what you would teach in the future
• Emphasis is mainly on pedagogy
• Helps the search committee picture the kind of teacher you would be in the classroom

TIPS:

1. Get personal experience by being a teaching assistant, an undergraduate mentor, a K-12 workshop volunteer, etc.
2. Think about classes you’ve enjoyed and why you enjoyed them
3. Ask professors if you can observe them teach
Research Statement (aka Research Plan)

• 1-3-5 page summary of your broad research, your current research, and your future plans
• Helps the search committee determine if you can hit the ground running doing research
• The page limit will help determine how much to say

TIPS:

1. Think about the limitations of your current work – what would you go back and do differently?
2. Think about other problems you’d want to work on, but show some connection back to your current work
Other Materials They Might Ask For

• Statement of Career Goals
• Samples of Your Writing
• Copy of Your Dissertation Abstract
• Portfolio of Your Design Work
• etc.
General Tips

• Start working on your materials early
• Ask for feedback from lab mates, friends, family
• Make use of Career Center and Writing Center
• Find books and websites to help you