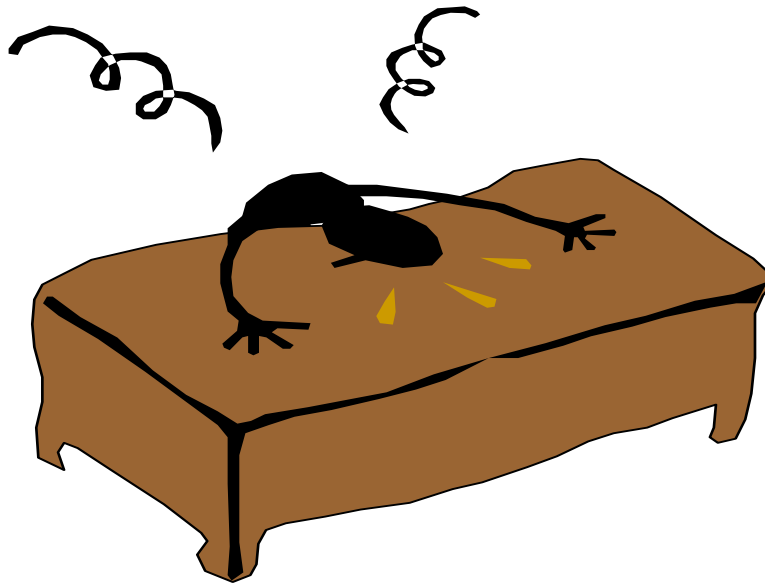


What else can I do with my Ph.D.?



This handout offers alternatives to Academia for
those with Ph.D.'s!

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In Academia today, positions can be difficult to obtain, and the job search process discourages many Ph.D.'s. This document was created to explore the options that Ph.D.'s have outside academia. It is just a starting point; the Career Services staff would be happy to assist you in any way in this process!

Number 1: Reframing the Question

“People are happiest when their work is a vocation, that is, when they are doing jobs or tasks that give them a sense of purpose and meaning, and which they would choose to do even if they don’t get paid”(Newhouse)! For many of you, your vocation seemed clearly pointed to being a professor in your chosen field of study. Have you ever imagined yourself doing something else? Consider what you would do if you could do whatever you want – this will tell you a great deal about other options that are available to you!

Number 2: Highlight your Skills

Outside the Ivory Tower: A Guide for Academics Considering Alternative Careers offers a list of skills that can highlight your different capabilities. They suggest looking through the list and circling any skills that you feel apply to you.

Are you skilled in:

Administering	Analyzing and Classifying	Anticipating
Auditing/Accounting	Calculating	Collaborating/Teamwork
Conceptualizing/Abstracting	Coordinating	Creating
Dealing with Pressure	Dealing with Unknowns	Decision Making
Delegating	Designing and/or Drawing	Developing Mathematical Models
Displaying	Editing	Enduring/Persisting
Evaluating/Appraising	Fundraising/Soliciting	Handling Complaints
Handling Detail Work	Interpreting/Translating	Interviewing Questioning
Investigating/Finding	Listening	Managing
Meeting the Public	Motivating or Leading	Moving with Dexterity
Negotiating/Mediating	Observing and Inspecting	Organizing
Performing and/or Entertaining	Planning	Politicking
Programming	Reading	Record Keeping/Collating
Rehabilitating	Remembering	Researching and Compiling
Selling/Persuading/Influencing	Speaking	Supervising
Synthesizing	Teaching and/or Coaching	Toleration
Trouble Shooting	Using Instruments	Writing

This list is in no way exhaustive, but is a starting point to enable you to identify your unique skills and talents and open your eyes to the many job possibilities that you may not have considered!

Number 3: Brainstorm

Once you have identified some skills, it's time to BRAINSTORM! *Outside the Ivory Tower* gives an example of one person's brainstorming technique.

Values	Interests	Skills
enjoyment	outdoors/nature/environment	imagining/creating
free time	photography/visual media	counseling/tutoring
self-realization	travel/foreign cultures	managing/mediating
independence	history	investigating/interpreting

Possible work/careers:

- teacher, administrator for Outward Bound or similar programs combining teaching with environmental context
- freelance nature and/or cultural photographer, e.g., for National Geographic
- environmental policy work, especially international, e.g., for the United Nations or Institute for Applied Social Science Analysis
- park ranger
- documentary maker
- manager of an international cultural and/or educational exchange program
- science writer, editor [writing was a skill, but not among the top]
- creator/promoter/coordinator/guide for exotic travel packages or international conferences

This serves as an example of what can happen when you begin to think about how your different skills and interests can be synthesized and applied.

Doing research may help you to define what is possible for you in the job field. There are a few areas where you can find this research:

1. Library Research can offer you plenty of information regarding job fields. Look in these specific types of information:
 - Newspapers, journals, periodicals specific to the field
 - Career literature
 - Employer directories
 - Corporate annual reports and marketing materials
 - Novels and journalistic accounts of particular work or industries
 - Job and internship listings
 - Alumni Career Network (available in Career Services)
2. Informational Interviewing – talk to the people in the fields you think you may want to go into.
3. Other People Sources – develop your networking skills!
 - Attend meetings of professional and trade associations in your potential career field

- Try to volunteer or intern in what you want to do - you gain both experience and you meet people who do what you want to do

What are non-academic careers?

Part-time freelance writing and editing

Solo Consulting

Financial Planning Practice

Non-Profits – almost any job you can imagine is available in this field, from arts to business to social agencies; you just have to network and look!

Virtually all enterprises need people who are good at:

- research and development
- administration
- finance
- management and planning
- production
- marketing
- sales

If you have these skills, or can acquire them, you can be on the road to a new career!

Have faith in yourself!

"You need to convince an employer both that you are absolutely committed to and confident about this career change and that you are essentially one of them, with the added bonus of a graduate education. You must convince an employer that you can 'add value' to his or her organization!"

If you have not finished, should you finish your Ph.D.?

- Gather as much information as possible about the practical consequences of either choice for a career in the field you are considering.
- How close you are to finishing is also a key factor.
- Talk with people whose judgement and discretion you trust.

Get your Resume and CV together and GO!

The Career Services Office can provide helpful suggestions for you to perfect your resume or CV for the various jobs to which you are applying. You can call for an appointment with any of our experienced career counselors to talk about your resume or your overall job search.

Much more information and guidance can be found on this topic and related topics in the Career Services Office.

The majority of information for this handout was taken from the book, *Outside the Ivory Tower: A Guide for Academics Considering Alternative Careers* by Margaret Newhouse.