

Networking Toward an Academic Job

The academy is a relatively small world, especially in your subfield. **Your goal is to be as well-connected** as you can be within that world. Very often career opportunities emerge based on who you've interacted with and built friendships with during your program. Don't wait until graduation time to get started!

How Do I Get from Student to Faculty?

- **ATTEND AND SPEAK AT CONFERENCES**

Make sure that you not only go to top conferences and industry meetings, but that you meet people. Go out to eat with contacts in your field. Socialize as much as you can. If you attend with fellow students or faculty, ask them to introduce you to who they know. Start small at low-pressure, regional conferences and work your way toward more prestigious events. Send an email or LinkedIn invite to new contacts after the conference.

- **ASK YOUR FACULTY MENTOR TO CONNECT YOU**

Be intentional about asking faculty in your department to introduce you to people in the field, whether it's private companies they've worked with, old grad school buddies, research collaborators or faculty at institutions of interest to you. Current professors are already in the field and can help you break in.

- **JOIN AND VOLUNTEER IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Consider doing some part-time work for a journal, association or conference (such as being an organizer for a panel or auction). If your university is hosting national or regional meetings, help out. These are not only opportunities to serve, but to network and build your CV.

- **ATTEND DEPARTMENT AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER EVENTS**

Being connected on campus can also build your scholarly reputation and strengthen your position for recommendations. You may learn a lot from department and career-related discussions. If outside speakers are invited from industry or academia, take the time to introduce yourself to them personally after their talks. Get business cards or contact info.

- **CULTIVATE A RELATIONSHIP WITH WELL-KNOWN FACULTY FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION**

Doing so can be especially helpful if you're not at a top five institution in your field. Ideas include inviting a scholar for a panel or working with them on a project and then asking for a letter of recommendation when you go to apply to a job. Being recommended by someone outside your program carries a lot of weight.

- **PARTNER ON RESEARCH AND WRITING**

Co-authoring a paper or working together on a project is not just about achieving a publication, it's a great way to make connections.

- **USE LINKEDIN**

Make sure to create a thorough and compelling profile on **LinkedIn**, then connect with as many people as possible in your field. (See career.oregonstate.edu for tips.) The beauty of LinkedIn is you don't have to already be friends when you send a request to connect. Ask new contacts to chat via phone or in-person to learn about their careers or current projects.

- **REMEMBER TO STAY IN TOUCH**

Meeting people once will rarely yield a fruitful networking relationship. Look for ways to stay connected. For example, after a meeting or conference, send a follow up email cementing the relationship. Compliment others on their work and offer field-specific input where you can. Keep them updated on your work. Send thank you notes. Check whether they will be at the next event you plan to attend.

