Preparing for the Realities of the PhD Job Market

Nathan L. Vanderford, PhD, MBA
Assistant Professor | Department of Toxicology and Cancer Biology
Assistant Dean for Academic Development | College of Medicine
Assistant Director for Research | Markey Cancer Center

nathan.vanderford@uky.edu
@nlvanderford
Realities of the Job Market
Current US Biological, Agricultural & Environmental Ph.D. Graduates

52% Within Academia

48% Outside Academia

- 26% For-Profit Business
- 9% Nonprofit Businesses
- 8% Federal Government
- 3% Self-Employed, Unincorporated Businesses
- 2% State Government

49% 4YR Institutions
3% 2YR & Precollege Institutions
~20% Total Tenured/Tenure-Track
~10.6% New Entrants

The PhD as a Hub for Career Selection (and Applicable Training)

- Faculty/Teaching
- Faculty/Research
- Entrepreneurship
- Policy
- Industry
- Nonprofit
- Government
- Communication
- Staff Scientist
- Consulting
- Business/Administration

Courtesy of Charles S. Craik, PhD, University of California San Francisco (modified)
Administrative Career Areas in Academia

- Academic Affairs
- Institutional Effectiveness
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Library Services
- Economic Development
- Extension Services
- Information Services
- Philanthropy
- Finance and Administration
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Sponsored Projects
- Research Compliance
- Research Operations
- Research Development
- Health Care Enterprise Support
Job Description

Provide scientifically-oriented administrative support to all cancer research and related academic/career development activities within the Department of Toxicology and Cancer Biology, the Markey Cancer Center and the College of Medicine.
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- Operations manager
- Administrator
- Manager/leader
- Consultant
- Strategist

- PR/marketing liaison
- Government affairs liaison
- Teacher/mentor
- Career development specialist
- Researcher
Research Administration Highlights

Grant and State Support Activities

- Kentucky Lung Cancer Research Fund (Administrator)
- Cigarette Excise Tax Program (Co-administrator)
- Cancer Center Support Grant (Assistant Director for Research)
- Career Training in Oncology Program (Creator/Founder and Director)

Other

- Markey Cancer Center Research Communications Office (Supervisor)
- Journal of Research Administration (Deputy Editor)
- National Institutes of Health, Risk, Prevention, and Health Behavior Fellowship Special Emphasis Study Section (Ad Hoc Member)
## Teaching Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years (semester)</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Role</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 (Fall)</td>
<td>Toxicology 508: Research in Toxicology</td>
<td>Research Mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 – current (Fall)</td>
<td>Toxicology 770: Orientation/Journal Club</td>
<td>Lecturer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 – current (Fall, Spring, Summer)</td>
<td>Experiential Education in Medicine 396</td>
<td>Course Director/ Faculty Sponsor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014 – current (Spring)</td>
<td>Graduate School 600: Preparing Future Professionals/Toxicology 780: Preparing Science Professionals</td>
<td>Course Director/ Lecturer</td>
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The Roadmap to Success

- Work hard, really hard!
- Provide value
- Network
- Build & advertise/demonstrate your brand
Advertising and Demonstrating Your Brand
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Work Experience

• Gain practical, hands-on work experience in your career field of interest.
  – You gain job sector/discipline-specific technical skills/knowledge.
  – You gain job sector/discipline-specific transferable skills/knowledge.
  – It increases your competitiveness (it boosts your resume!).
Transferable Skills

Skills taken from one situation to another

- Communication
- Interpersonal/team skills
- Good attitude
- Leader/follower skills
- Self-motivation/“Go getter”
- Time management
- Project management
- Ethics/integrity
- Resilience
- Critical/analytical thinking
- Problem solving
- Innovators
- Strategic perspective
- Business acumen

Networking

• Interacting with other people to exchange information and develop contacts.
• ~80% of today’s jobs are obtained through networking.
Informational Interviews

A meeting between a trainee or job seeker and someone within that person’s career area of interest for the purpose of understanding that career path.
Preparing For the Workforce

- **Understand the realities** of the job market and the variety of career paths available.

- **Realize what skills are required** to transition into your career path of interest.

- **Identify resources** that can be leveraged to gain the skills needed to obtain a job within a chosen career path.

- **Take action** to actively prepare for your desired career path.
Questions?