

Advice in Academic Career

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TEN TIPS TO A SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC CAREER

1. Carve out research time and treat it like any other appointment you wouldn't cancel.
2. Say yes to all opportunities that will help you to develop as a researcher at first, and then learn when it's better to say no.
3. Be flexible.
4. Choose quality over quantity.
5. Run your own studies in graduate school, if possible.
6. If you are interested in clinical outcome research, continue to see patients and/or supervise graduate student therapy cases.
7. Welcome criticism.
8. Build collaborative relationships that complement your own research interests.
9. Maintain relationships with your mentors and other faculty you admire after you finish your degree and move into an academic career.
10. Have a clear idea of the lines of research you plan to develop and how you plan to build your research program but be open to new directions or ways of thinking about your research plan.

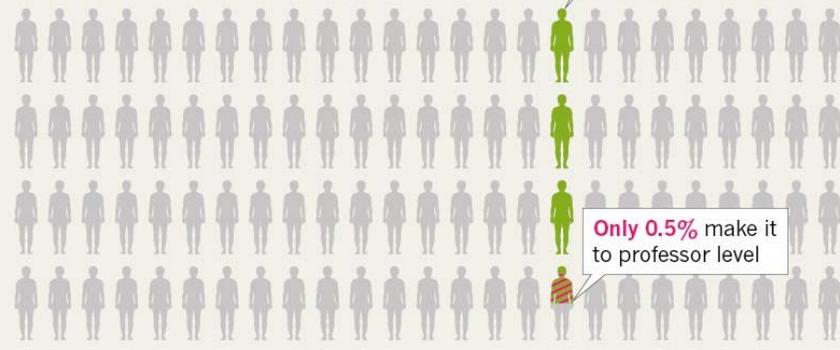
Kate Wolitzky-Taylor, PhD
Assistant Professor , USC

<https://div12.org/ten-tips-to-a-successful-academic-career/>

BEATING THE ODDS TO SECURE A PERMANENT CONTRACT

LONG ODDS

Only a small fraction of PhD graduates secure and remain in a permanent research position at a university. Even fewer become full professors, according to a 2010 report from London's Royal Society.



The usual advice for people seeking permanent academic positions is to ***get a good mentor, build up a solid network, publish plenty of papers and hope for a healthy dose of good luck.*** That advice, once intended to help potential new faculty members gain an advantage, are now minimum standards. A tighter job market demands some updated approaches.

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- 1. Design and follow a strategy:** It's important to think about what type of academic career or job role you are aiming for and the type of institution you want to work in. Then you can focus your effort on gaining the experience that is most relevant for what you want.
- 2. Work out your numbers:** This is about making it easy for the academic recruiter to see the impact you have made. Whether that is stating the number of publications you have, the number of times you have been approached to give a talk, the number of followers you have on twitter (only if you use it professionally!), or anything else.
- 3. Ride the wave of uncertainty:** This is in terms of research results (and consequently ability to publish and gain research funding), as well as job opportunities necessitating moving city or country and having to establish new social networks. Embrace this uncertainty! it's important to be aware this is a common feature of the academic career and consider your approach to managing this positively.
- 4. Make peace with rejection:** You will get rejection in many areas: papers for publication, grant applications, fellowship applications. It's important to remember that rejection is the **norm** and it is not personal. Share rejection with others so you can see it is normal but most importantly learn from it – how could you improve the paper or grant application? Get feedback from peers and mentors to move forward.

(A) My path to science:

Why did I choose research as a career?

(B) My daily life:

What do I do day in and day out and why do I continue to do it?

*** My research**

- (1) Why do I study that?
- (2) Why do I find it interesting and engaging?
- (3) What are the broader impacts of my research?
- (4) Why should students consider studying what I'm studying?

*** Personally**

- (1) Why do I continue to be a faculty member and do research?
- (2) What's the best thing about it?

(C) Advice:

What is the BEST piece of advice I can give to students seeking to gain research experience in a lab?