

A Career at a Primarily Undergraduate Institution

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Presentation Overview

- Describe the position of professor at a Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI)
- Describe the benefits/drawbacks
- Discuss some recommendations on following this career path.



Responsibilities of a Professor at a PUI

- Teaching
- Research
- Service



Responsibilities -Teaching

- Two to four courses, including some labs
- Faculty teach upper-division labs, some freshman labs
- Development of lecture and lab materials



Responsibilities - Research

- Develop a research program involving students
- Write proposals to support research
- Write publications
- Talks at professional meetings, seminars



Responsibilities - Service

- Committees (recruiting new faculty members, assessing colleagues, etc.)
- Working with local schools
- Assisting local industry
- Assorted stuff to run a chemistry department



Benefits of a PUI Career

- Academic Freedom
 - Ability to work with young people, help them reach their fullest potential
 - TENURE!
 - Ability to work in a variety of research areas
 - As a faculty member, *theoretically* work on nine-month appointment
 - Sabbatical
 - Community of scholars
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Limitations of a PUI Career

- Salary - typically in the mid \$40k for a new assistant professor
- Often limited resources (manpower, equipment, supplies)
- Working towards TENURE



Career Path to a PUI - Graduate School

- Volunteer to teach lectures/courses
- Do some volunteer work in organizations such as SAS, Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)
- Develop research plans appropriate for a PUI
- Consider teaching postdocs, Dreyfus Found.
- Be as productive researcher as possible



Career Path to a PUI - Applying

- Plan to invest time in application materials
- Develop teaching philosophy/plans
- Develop research plans for undergraduates
- Prepare a list of start-up costs
- Send these materials to your references to assist them in writing references



Career Path to a PUI - Tenure

- First year - get settled teach courses
- First summer - get lab set up, write proposals
- Second year - refine courses, begin research, submit proposals, begin service
- Sixth year - submit materials for tenure



Career Path to a PUI - Post-Tenure

- Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure
- Promotion to Professor 4-10 years later
- Administrative Positions - Department Head, Dean, etc.



Summary - PUI Career

- Allows considerable freedom to pursue personal interests
- After six years, offers job security
- Satisfaction in seeing student success
- Relatively low salary

