Getting Started in Academic Careers: On the Cutting Edge Resources for Graduate Students, Postdoctoral Fellows, and Early Career Faculty

**What Your Graduate Students and Postdocs Want to Know**

*On the Cutting Edge,* the professional development program, offers online resources and annual multi-day workshops for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows interested in pursuing academic careers and for early career faculty in the geosciences. Pre-workshop surveys reveal that both groups have many questions about teaching, research, and career management. Graduate students and postdocs also have questions about jobs and the job search process. Many of their questions show a lack of familiarity with the nature of academic positions at different kinds of educational institutions and with the fundamental nature of the academic job search process.

**Common Questions on Teaching**

- How much time should I expect to spend on teaching? What’s a normal load? What teaching strategies are most effective, and how can I implement them?
- How do I develop, plan, and prepare a new course, efficiently? How can I keep students engaged in large-enrollment courses?

**Resources on the Cutting Edge website**

For early career faculty members
http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/earlycareer/teaching/index.html

For graduate students and postdocs preparing for an academic career
http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/careerprep/teaching/index.html

**Common Questions on Research**

- How can I develop a research program that goes beyond my PhD? Where can I get funding? How much do I need? How hard is it to get?
- How much time should I expect to spend on research? How do I go about setting up & managing a lab and recruiting good students?

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**Common Questions on Career Management**

- How can I balance my teaching and research responsibilities?
- How can I balance my professional responsibilities with my personal life?
- What do I need to do to get tenure? How much is “enough”?

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http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/earlycareer/balance/index.html
http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/earlycareer/tenure/index.html

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**Conclusions**

We encourage graduate student advisors, postdoc supervisors, and mentors of new faculty members to include this kind of information in your mentoring efforts, if you don’t already, and to encourage your colleagues to do the same.

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