



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM

Professional Development Workshop Series 2016

How to Start a Job Search - or What Do I Do with this PhD?

Exercise 1: Interests

There are multiple ways to assess your interests, below is a short questionnaire that begins to explore the areas of interest that can affect a job search. Additionally, there are multiple skills/interest assessments on line; you'll have to pay for some of the better ones, but you can also contact the campus career center for more help. I did the work preference inventory assessment (find it here: <http://www.careerperfect.com/content/career-planning-work-preference-inventory>). This assessment provides some insight into the type of working style you have and I thought that its results were consistent with the way that I work.

We won't focus on this particular exercise today, but I urge you to do some type of assessment, either here or on line to determine what you need from your career.

General

1. What have you studied in the past?
2. Why did you choose these fields?
3. What topics are you most passionate about? Think about all aspects of your life.

Activities

4. What activities inspired you as an undergraduate? As a graduate student? As a post doc?
5. As you think about you current work, which activities do you enjoy most?
6. As you think about your current work, which activities to you enjoy least?

Interaction with Science

7. In what way would you like to interact with science in your next job? Would you like to be exposed to science broadly? Or work on one particular research problem in a narrowly defined discipline?

Environment

8. Where would you like to live?
9. What size organization would you like to work in?
10. What type of environment would you like to work in? Corporate? In a less formal office setting? Outside? In a laboratory?

People

11. Describe the people you enjoy being around.
12. Would you prefer to work alone, in a group, or have occasional contact with others?