

Academic Job Search Timeline

The typical hiring cycle for academic jobs is October through May. Your timeline may differ depending on when you complete your dissertation. The following is a general timeline of an October to May hiring cycle.

To begin, first reflect!

Before you begin searching for a job in academia, you must consider the types of institutions and roles that match your career aspirations. Make a list of your non-negotiables and items on which you are willing to be flexible. Would you prefer to work at a research or teaching university? Do you prefer public or private institutions? Large or small? What is your ideal location? Are you open to non-tenure track positions?

Summer (June-September)

- Create or update your CV
- Ask for letters of recommendation
- Build or reconnect with network of contacts
- Prepare additional application materials including cover letters, teaching portfolio, teaching philosophy, etc.
- Create a plan for your search

Fall (October-December)

- Review job postings
- Attend conferences
- Network with other professionals and academics
- Begin applying for positions and keep track of applications
- Prepare for interviews - use the Career Center and faculty advisors for mock interviews

Spring (January-May)

- Continue applying for positions
- Attend conferences - some may have first-round interviews
- Prepare your job talk and practice in front of faculty and peers
- Evaluate your offers