

Job Hunting in Tough Times

It's a challenging and stressful time to be on the job market. Jobs in History are down 15 percent; in English, 22 percent; in Foreign Languages, 20 percent. Here is practical advice about steps you can take to maximize your chances for success on the academic job market:

If you aren't on the job market yet:

1. *Build Up Your Credentials*

- Present a paper at a conference
- Submit an article to a journal
- Work as a research assistant or at a research center or university press or journal

2. *Network*

- Develop professional contacts

3. *Increase Your Professional Visibility*

- Consider participating on a scholarly listserv

4. *Demonstrate Your Energy*

- Organize a lecture, a conference, a reading group

5. *Get Some Teaching Experience*

- Start and maintain a Teaching Portfolio, documenting the courses you have taught, your successes and innovations, and the evaluations you received.*

If you are currently on the job market:

1. *Don't get discouraged--or desperate.*

- The path to a tenure track job has never been easy.

2. *Finish.*

- Time to completion is one of the ways departments predict future productivity. If you wait another year, you will be on the market with completers next year and delayers this year.

3. *Short term options:*

- Build up your credentials: Publish and get varied teaching experience. Get to know faculty members in your niche.

4. *Get feedback on your job application materials.*

- Contact the Teaching Center!

5. *Network.*

- Develop connections with faculty members in your field outside of Columbia.



Columbia University
Graduate School of Arts &
Sciences Teaching Center

Advancing teaching and learning

The Teaching Center is the go-to place for practical advice about teaching. We can help you:

- Successfully market your teaching
- Deal with anxiety, challenges to your authority, and other classroom issues
- Design innovative courses, deliver scintillating, substantive lectures, and lead stimulating discussions and labs.
- Respond appropriately to shy, withdrawn, or disruptive students.
- Use technology more effectively.

The Teaching Center offers:

- Weekly workshops
- Individual consultations
- Certification in pedagogy
- Observations on your teaching
- A library of teaching, job search, and publishing resources

A catalyst for innovation, The Teaching Center

- Promotes interdisciplinary
- Sponsors research in the science of learning
- Supports improvements in the assessment of learning outcomes
- Works collaboratively to improve public education through community and school partnerships

To arrange a one-on-one consultation, contact:

Steven Mintz
smintz@columbia.edu
212-854-1066

6. *Don't be generic.*

Identify (and tout) your special strengths and accomplishments. Show your range. Particularize your job application letter. Know what you have to offer that's special.

7. *A bite--or even a nibble--from a university press greatly enhances your job prospects in the humanities, in particular.*

Put together a book proposal (the Teaching Center will tell you how) and begin to shop it around.

8. *Toot your horn, professionally.*

Figure out why your dissertation topic is significant—and why it would be of interest to a non-specialist. Are you opening up a new subject? Have you pioneered a new methodology? Have you re-thought an older debate?