EEB Job and Grad School

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What we’ll cover today

- Career Center Services
- Career Paths for EEB Students
- The Graduate School Process
Career Center Services

- Career Coaching
- Career Assessments
- Part-Time Jobs & Work-study (ER System)
- Job & Internship Search
- Graduate School Applications
- Pre-Health Advising - Aaron McPherson (that’s me)
- Pre-Law Advising - Autumn Kanne
- Career Fairs
- Slugquest
- Resume & Cover Letter Help
- Interview Preparation
Workshops

● Network Your Way into a Dream Job | 2/21 | 12:00-1:00pm
● Multicultural Career Conference | 2/24 | 9:30am-4:00pm
● Ace Your Interview with Emotional Intelligence | 3/8 | 5:00-6:00pm
Career Fairs

Spring Job & Internship Fair | 4/18 | 3:00-6:00pm
So what can you do with an EEB degree? and where can you work?
Who hires EEB majors?

- College/Universities
- Research Institutions
- Private Consulting and Industry
- Government (local, state, and federal)
  - National Science Foundation
  - National Institutes of Health
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - Food and Drug Administration
  - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Department of Agriculture
  - National Park Service
  - Department of the Interior- National Park Service
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
- Schools
What types of jobs are available with a BS?

- **College/Universities**
  - Field Research Technician
  - Lab Assistant
- **Research Institutions**
  - Lab/Research Assistant
- **Private Consulting and Industry**
  - Field/Research Technician
  - Lab/Research Assistant
- **Government**
  - Intern
  - Park Naturalist
  - Wildlife Specialist
- **Non-governmental Organization (NGO)**
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Program Scientist
- **Schools**
  - Teaching Assistant
  - Outdoor Educator
  - K-12 Teacher
What types of jobs are available with an MS?

- College/Universities
  - Professor at some 2 year colleges
  - Research Assistant
- Research Institutions
  - Lab/Research Assistant
- Private Consulting and Industry
  - Research Assistant
  - Environmental Consultant
  - Environmental Planner
  - Program Manager
- Government
  - Program Manager
  - Wildlife Biologist
  - Forester
  - Natural Resource Manager
- Non-governmental Organization (NGO)
  - Program Scientist
  - Environmental Analyst
  - Field Ecologist
- Schools
  - K-12 Teacher
  - Science Specialist
What types of jobs are available with a PhD?

- **College/Universities**
  - Professor
  - Post Doc
- **Research Institutions**
  - Post Doc
  - Research Manager
- **Private Consulting and Industry**
  - Research and Development Scientists
  - Research Manager
- **Government**
  - Program Manager
  - Wildlife Biologist
  - Forester
  - Natural Resource Manager
- **Non-governmental Organization (NGO)**
  - Program Scientist
  - Environmental Analyst
  - Field Ecologist
How to prepare for a job

- Work for a professor doing lab, library, or field - work.
- Seek out Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) at institutions and field stations funded by the National Science Foundation.
- Work as a teaching or lab assistant for a biology or ecology course.
- Spend a summer at a field station. The Organization of Biological Field Stations is a good place to search for opportunities.
- Get a summer or part time job with a park, government agency, or nature center.
- The Student Conservation Association matches students and volunteer opportunities with government and private agencies.
- Get a work/study experience with any one of a number of federal natural resource agencies (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service).
Searching for a Job


- **Consulting and Industry** - Many jobs in consulting and industry are advertised locally or never advertised. To find these jobs, write to potential employers of interest.


- **State Government** - Vacancies can be obtained through individual state employment websites.

- And don't forget county or city agencies.
Other Resources

Job sites- http://www.esa.org/nextgencareers/resources/job-sites
Ecological Society of America- www.esa.org
International Society of Arboriculture
Society for Conservation Biology
Society for Ecological Restoration
Society of Wetland Scientists
Ejobs.org
https://listserv.umd.edu/archives/ecolog-l.html
http://evol.mcmaster.ca/evoldir.html
www.conservationjobboard.com
Graduate School
Things to consider

- Why are you interested?
- What will be your specialized area?
- What will you do with the degree?
- Should you take some time off before grad school?
- Masters or PhD?
What about a Gap Year?

Depends!

- **Do you know what you want to do/research?**
  - Yes- Great! Go ahead and go to grad school
  - No- That’s okay too! Take some time off and work to help clarify interests/career goals

- **Do you have the research experience needed to get into grad school?**
  - Yes- Yay! Go ahead and apply to grad school
  - No- Maybe take some time off to gain some additional experience in a lab or the field

- **Do you have the grades needed to get into grad school?**
  - Yes- You’re a superstar. Go ahead and apply
  - No- That’s okay! Get some research and work experience that’ll help your graduate application stand out
Pros and Cons of Grad School

Pros

- Can open up more job opportunities across a variety of different fields
- Gives you greater earning power
- Allows you to advance your career
- Access to more research tools and equipment
- Access to faculty who do research that inspires you

Cons

- Pursuing a PhD may limit the fields you can work in and who will hire you
- Takes time
- Personal/Relationship strains
- Stressful
- Cost (tuition + loss in potential earnings)
Masters or PhD

Masters

• Prepares you for a PhD
• Provides a broader appreciation of research opportunities and areas of expertise available to you
• May help you decide that a PhD is not right for you → Or that it’s absolutely the right thing
• Opens plenty of doors job-wise
• May mean it takes you longer to get a PhD

PhD

• Good if you have done extensive research in undergrad
• Required for a degree in academia as a professor (4 year level)
• Finish earlier than if you had gone through MS first
• More competitive than MS programs
Graduate School Preparation

- Letters of Recommendation - 3
- School selection based on your research interests
- Academic Requirements
  - Related degree
- Exam - GRE, LSAT
- Personal Statement
- Financing
  - Financial Aid
  - Funded Programs - Teaching Assistantships and Graduate Research Assistantships
Graduate School Timeline

Prior to Applying

Start at least 1 year in advance of when you want to enter a program

- Identify 3-6 potential advisor at schools you are applying to
  - Write an Intro Letter
- Take the GRE
- Narrow list based on response from faculty
- Visit lab and university of potential schools
- Apply to at least three programs

Fall Application Deadline- January 1
Choosing a Graduate Program

- Apply to a professor rather than a program
  - Your current faculty are a great resource for knowing who is doing what research and where
  - Read literature, search the web for faculty
- It is usually okay to pursue a masters at the same institution you did undergrad
- Best to obtain a PhD from a different institution
- Aim to get the best education you can (lab) even if you don’t like the location
- Don’t look for the “best” person in your field
  - Look for someone doing exciting research to you
  - Someone who will be an outstanding advisor and will invest time and resources (equipment, money, energy) to your work
Reaching out to Faculty at Potential Schools

- Do not contact via phone
- Mail a letter or send an email

Contents:

- RESEARCH THE FACULTY!
- Indicate you plan on applying for the upcoming term
- Mention what courses and research caught your attention, and express research interests
- Let the professor know if you have experience in their area of expertise (coursework, internship, field, research experience)
- Mention future plans and how studying with that professor fits in
- Ask if the professor is accepting graduate students
- Offer to meet with the professor to provide additional information
- If you're reaching out to multiple faculty in one department, let each know (“I am also reaching out to Profs. X and Y”)
All About the GRE

Three Parts:

- **Verbal Reasoning**: analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information
- **Quantitative Reasoning**: measures problem-solving ability using basic concepts
- **Analytical Writing**: measures critical thinking and analytical writing skills

Length:

- 3 hours 45 minutes

Cost: $205 + $27 per score recipient

Testing Centers: nationwide, offered almost daily

ETS offers a number of free GRE prep resources and some that are pretty fairly priced

- Unless you know you are not a good standardized test taker, a prep course is probably not worth it
Financing Graduate School

- Often (good) grad programs will provide a living stipend and a full tuition waiver
  - Graduate Teaching Assistantships
  - Graduate Research Assistantships
- Students are often only responsible for covering general fees
- Financial package should not be your primary motivation for choosing a program

Grants

- If program isn’t covering tuition
- To make extra money and help pay for research (equipment, supplies, trips, etc.)
- Certain about of prestigiousness that comes along with grants
Need help?

Appointments:
Schedule through slugquest

Drop-in Advising:
10:00-11:45am and 1:00-2:45pm
Monday-Friday
Thanks for Listening!

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