Presenter: Dr. Olivia Garcia, Assistant Director of Graduate Student Professional Development
The University of Texas at El Paso

THE PLANS:

THE PLAN YOU TELL YOUR ADVISOR

“I'M GOING TO BE A PROFESSOR AT A MAJOR RESEARCH UNIVERSITY AFTER I GRADUATE.”

THE REAL PLAN

LOOK FOR CAREER ALTERNATIVES.

THE SECRET PLAN

BECOME A BAKER/ROCKSTAR/WRITER.
versatile (adjective)

1. Capable of doing many things competently
2. Having many uses or serving many functions
3. Capable of moving freely in all directions
The Branching Career Pipeline

Graduate Training → Postdoc

Postdoc → TT Prof or PI → Other Careers

Postdoc → Adjunct → Other Careers

Not to scale – outgoing pipe sizes vary by academic discipline
The Good News

• You are not alone
• PhDs & ABDs work in all sectors
• Demand for grad degrees is rising
• Your desires may change
• You DO have marketable skills
• Each career path has its advantages/disadvantages
Non-Academic Career Advantages

• You may have the freedom to live where you want
• Variety of different jobs and fields
• Possibility of higher income potential
• Perhaps there is more advancement opportunity
Typical PhD Skills

✓ Critical thinking, analysis
✓ Subject matter knowledge
✓ Research skills
✓ Rapid learning
✓ Teaching
✓ Written and oral communication
✓ Problem solving
✓ Assessment/evaluation
✓ Adaptability/Versatile!
Versatile PhD is the oldest, largest online community dedicated to non-academic and non-faculty careers for PhDs in humanities, social science and STEM. Over 50,000 have joined this site to...

- Discover interesting career paths
- Consult the community
- See job listings appropriate for PhDs
- Network with successful PhDs nationwide
- Attend local meetups
- Why should you trust us?
# PhD Career Finder

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<th>Humanities &amp; Social Sciences</th>
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Consulting

What it is

Businesses and other organizations hire consulting firms to provide an outside perspective and analytical skill to help address pressing strategic or practical issues. Management consultants address business issues; scientific consultants address technical issues. Management consulting involves problem identification and analysis. Case by case, it can cover everything from internal systems to public perception. Technical or scientific consulting can involve bench research, usually about product or process development, or providing input on the technical aspects of a proposed project. Both require major mental shifts: the academic science community values thoroughness, narrow focus and perfect accuracy, while the business and government communities value efficiency, breadth of knowledge, and getting projects done.

Starting points

Large management consulting firms will hire STEM PhDs for their analytical skills. Large firms can take chances with hiring and are also more aware of the strengths of PhDs. You would probably start as some sort of “associate,” “analyst” or “consultant.” Entry-level position titles in technical consulting firms will often include the word “scientist” or “engineer.” Some management consulting firms are adding technical and scientific consulting to their services.

Advancement

Advancement opportunities from management consulting are vast and diverse. With a few years’ hard work and successful performance, you can move up or across within the firm, change firms, or even move into one of the businesses or industries you’ve served. Technical or scientific consulting can lead to employment with a key client, moving up within the consulting firm, or starting your own small firm.

Disciplines

All STEM disciplines can enter this field. Technical consulting keeps you closer to the bench and to science itself, whereas management consulting will take you and to-
Grant Writing

What it is
Helping nonprofits operate by attracting grant funding. The grant writer is a key member of the resource development team, preparing and submitting grant proposals, tracking past submissions, identifying new funders and reporting back to funders when funds are expended. Skills needed include prospect research and analysis, case-making using statistics and other factual information, organization and deadline management, relationship management and fast learning.

Starting points
Large nonprofit organizations (including universities!) have multiple grant writers on staff; look for positions like Grant Writer or Grants Associate. Smaller organizations may hire you as a Grant Writer, and the very small may accept your help as a volunteer or inexpensive consultant.

Advancement
From Grant Writing, one can progress to becoming Director of Development and ultimately Executive Director. With experience and a successful track record, one can establish a freelance practice, or move over to the grant-making side and become Program Officer at a private or corporate foundation. Interestingly, fundraising is a profession where women have a slight edge and can continue working their whole lives without fear of “aging out.”

Disciplines
Rhetoric and Composition is a great fit, but any humanities or social science discipline that requires you to do a lot of reading, writing and case-making would be good preparation.
Hiring Success Story

Scott Breunig, Ph.D., Molecular Biology, Princeton University, 2011
Hired in 2011 as Consultant at Oliver Wyman

Included here (scroll down):
Narrative, resume, cover letter

As a fourth-year grad student I knew that my options after graduating were limited, and the idea of spending another 2-6 years as a low-salaried post-doc with little job security was entirely unappealing. I began taking advantage of the university’s career counselling office, which had recently begun organizing events for graduate students looking outside of the academy.

I attended a number of recruiting sessions aimed at graduate students by firms that typically recruited undergraduates. From finance (Goldman Sachs, DE Shaw) and retail banking (BOA) to consulting (McKinsey, BCG) and industry (J&J), I went to various open houses to learn what firms were looking for and expecting. I settled on consulting as probably the best fit given my natural curiosity across a broad range of topics and my love for breaking problems into data-driven questions.

I created a generic resume that I could tailor by firm. I trashed my CV and built the resume from scratch. Out went the standard historical layout and in its place I had three sections ordered by what I believed recruiters cared most about: analyst experience, leadership experience, education. I was able to separate out my various on-campus roles to fit into the first two buckets. The descriptions tied in with the section, so my time in grad school was not “creating an understanding of yeast genetic and metabolism” but instead was “analysing and...”
Members

Total Members 49,564

Viewing 1 - 30 of 49,564 active members

Paula Chambers, Founder
active 3 seconds ago

Karen
active 4 minutes ago

Hai-Anh Le
active 4 minutes ago

Gillian Acca
active 7 minutes ago

Brenda
active 7 minutes ago

elbow9
active 8 minutes ago

Dong Wang
active 13 minutes ago

MDLM
active 14 minutes ago

fergusono
active 14 minutes ago

Benjamin Cater
active 16 minutes ago
Power Search Form

Name

General Disciplinary Category

Specific discipline within that category

Current employment status

Current city or town

Search
# Francisco Donez

**Display Name**: Francisco Donez  
**General Disciplinary Category**: Social Science  
**Specific discipline within that category**: Environmental Policy  
**Highest degree attained**: Doctorate  
**Current employment status**: working in government  
**If enrolled or employed at a university, which university?**: Pitzer College (adjunct, part time)
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<td><strong>If employed outside academy or not as faculty, current position and employer or field</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</td>
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<td><strong>Country where you currently live</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current city or town</strong></td>
<td>Claremont, CA</td>
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Other Useful Features of VPhD

• Supportive, confidential discussion forums – not just grad students but successful post-academics too, answering your questions

• Jobs for Hum/SS and STEM PhDs

• Local meetups

• Good Twitter feed @VersatilePhD
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STUDENT SUPPORT

While you are in engaged in your academic and research endeavors at UTEP’s Graduate School, it is important that you acquire, polish, and master a range of professional and academic skills that will allow you to advance your work, your ideas, and yourself in effective ways. The Graduate School offers many opportunities for professional development and student support, including workshops, consultations, dissertation studios, and direction to helpful resources.

Workshops and Events
The Graduate School offers various workshops that help graduate students develop, refine, and broaden an array of skills essential for success in graduate school and beyond. Whether it’s polishing a presentation style, learning how to craft a CV, or preparing to land that ideal job, we’re here to help. We offer various workshops, activities, and resources to ensure graduate student success in both their academic and professional endeavors. Read More

Dissertation Studio
The dissertation studio provides doctoral students an opportunity to have a period of focused time and support for writing the dissertation. As we all know, writing involves some level of discipline and commitment. We provide the space, the time, and the snacks; doctoral students come with the commitment to make progress on their dissertations. Dissertation studios can range from weekend to week-long events. In addition to writing time, participants are asked to engage in active reflection of their writing process in order to develop effective writing skills and strategies that will lead to the successful completion of the dissertation.

UTEP Graduate Student Research Expo
The UTEP Graduate Research Expo is an annual event that offers graduate students the opportunity to present their research in a local academic conference environment. The Expo showcases the quality of research that is being conducted by our graduate students and their faculty mentors, as UTEP is poised to become a national research university with a 21st century student demographic. Read More

Many of these activities are funded by UTEP’s PUENTES program, made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education through the "Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans” Program. Click here to learn more about the PUENTES program.