

# Starting Your Job and Planning Your Career in Academia

Y. Annie Liu

Computer Science Department  
State University of New York at Stony Brook

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# Starting your job in academia

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**imagine** what many of your professors do...

teaching: lecturing just a couple of hours a week;  
giving homeworks that take you hours or days.

writing grant proposals: getting money for fancy ideas.

getting graduate students: letting students do hard work.

serving on department and university committees:

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doing research:

writing papers:

writing programs: if at all.

...

# Starting your job in academia

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now **you** do them: **too many things!**

teaching: syllabus, textbook, TA, schedules, classroom, ...  
lectures, homeworks, exams, grading guides, ...

writing grant proposals: source, worthy ideas, credential, ...

getting graduate students: good ones, ..., listening, creative.

serving on department and university committees:

...

doing research:

writing papers:

writing programs: wish you have time.

...

I stopped reading newsgroups.

# Organize and prioritize

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teaching: must do well, right away.

it is your and your university's business; better you love it.

it helps you get good students.

it helps you get updated with solid new materials in CS.

research: must do well, do something every week.

it is what's you love to do.

you'll find yourself more efficient: reading, writing, thinking.

writing grant proposals, papers, programs; plan in order.

service: must do well, but no need to volunteer for a while.

a good dept gives you less to start with.

they let you help with grad admission.

accept others if they directly help your teaching and research.

# Ask

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ask when in doubt; it's that simple.

can ask about all aspects of teaching, research, and service.

can ask people at the same and different institutions.

can ask people in the same and different research areas.

it is a good chance to talk to people and get to know them.

it shows them that you respect them and their advice.

it helps you make good decisions w/o having experienced much.

# Ask your mentor

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some department assigns mentors to new faculty.

I had a greatest mentor at Indiana University—Jon Barwise.

they may or may not be in the same areas as you.

you can find a great mentor yourself without anything official.

it is one who you ask “often” enough and is always helpful.

they may or may not be in the same institution as you.

they are the best people to start with when you have questions.

you can ask questions not just about work but also life.

# Deal with politics

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politics are everywhere.

complaining does not help.

some places are much better than others.

try to go to a better place if possible.

try to understand people and accommodate difference if possible.

but have your own principles always.

in most cases, you will like your job,

because your colleagues are smart and nice people.

# Planning your career

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what do you value most

teaching

research in fundamental theories

research in practical systems

community leadership

...

all

what are you good at

...

all — if you are the few super humans :)

pause once in a while to think about a bigger picture

# Look forward and outward

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## in general...

keep up with core research progress in your area.

watch out for applications and other development.

branch into related and new areas.

## in particular...

look at important new proceedings and journals.

attend conferences.

visit colleagues at other institutions and invite them to visit.

# Enjoy life

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attend department/university/community activities outside work.

invite colleagues and students for a party.

have a good vacation with families and friends, once in a while.

spend time doing some regular exercises.

eat well and sleep well.