



my IDP

<https://myidp.sciencecareers.org>

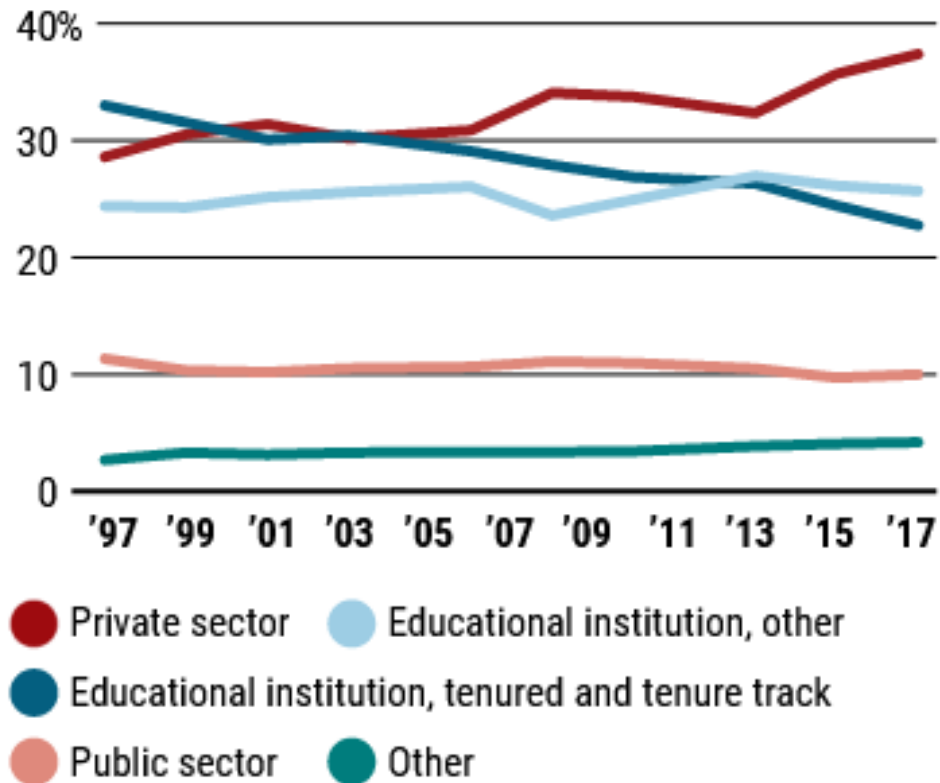
Session 1 – 1/25/21

Exploring diversity of career paths & prepping for informational interviews

Presented by Dr. Jamie DeWitt and Dr. Morgan Milton

Slides by Dr. Jamie DeWitt

Employment sector



Considering the diversity of career paths...
matters.

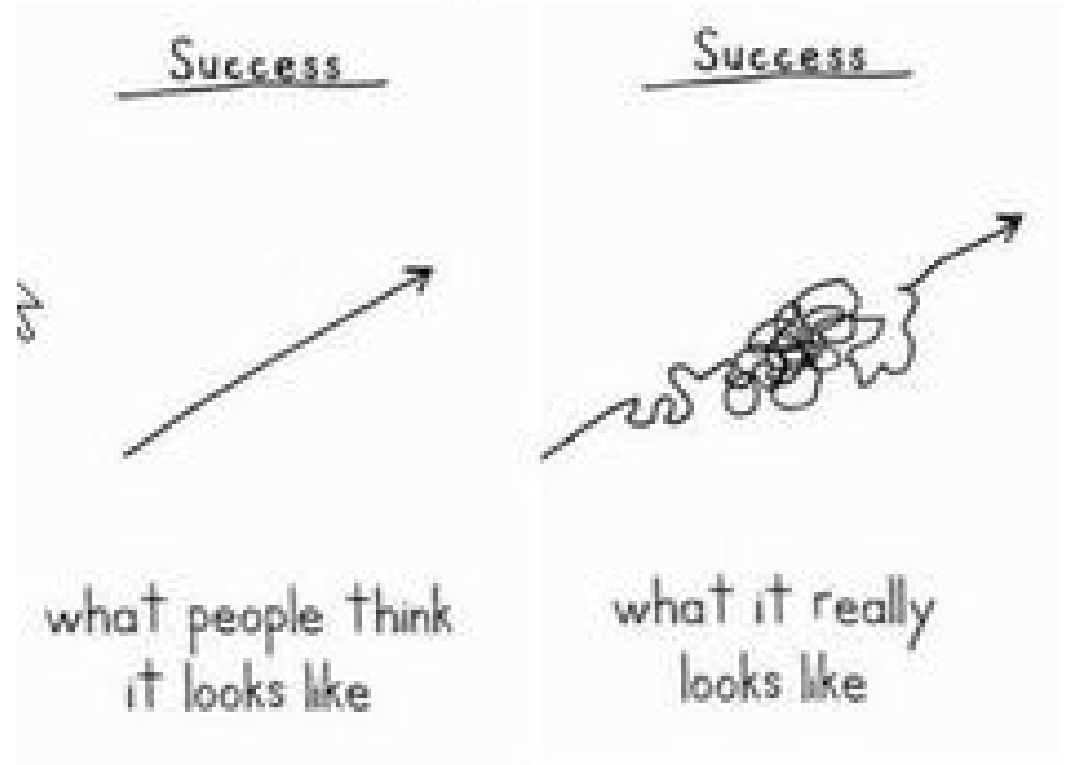
What types of career paths exist for PhD-level scientists?

myIDP identifies 20 different career paths for PhD-level scientists.

What are some of these career paths?

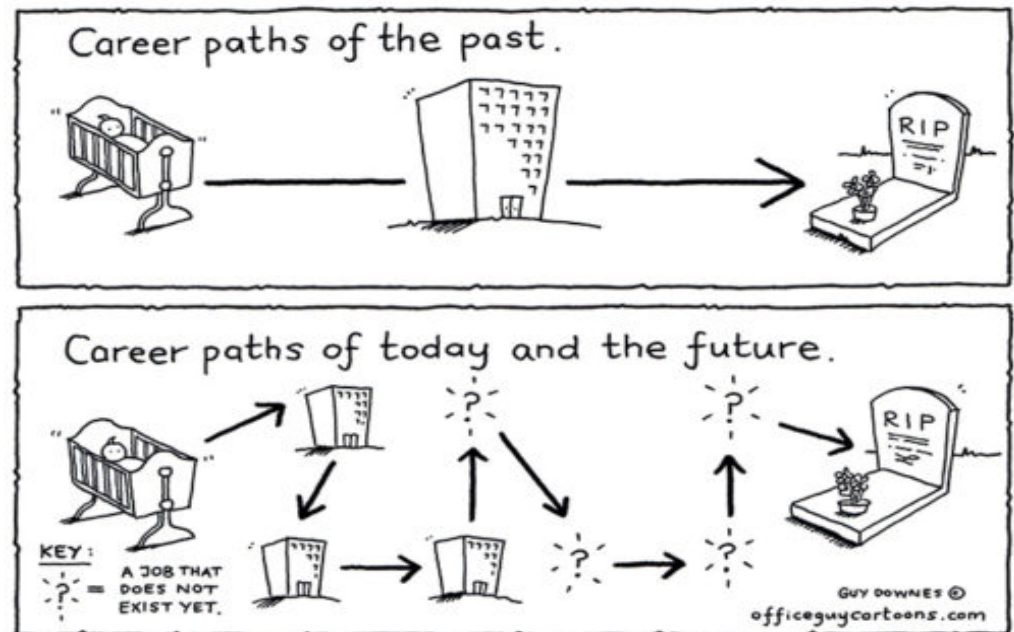
What types of career paths exist for YOU?

Of the 20 different career paths identified by myIDP, *what were your top five paths?*



What do you think about YOUR types of career paths?

Were you surprised by your top five?
Why/why not?



The informational interview

- Reach out to 2-3 people who have jobs/careers that are similar to your top ranked career matches from your MyIDP survey.
- Do not use anyone from ECU; reach out beyond the university to expand your network. If you are having trouble finding people to interview, please contact Dr. DeWitt at dewittj@ecu.edu or Dr. Milton at miltonm19@ecu.edu and we will try to help you.

The informational interview

- Once you have found someone to chat with, ask them:
 - What is their job is like?
 - What do they love?
 - What do they struggle with?
 - What skills do they think are important for being successful?
 - What skills do they wish they had developed better?
 - What expectations do you have about a job and are those expectations real?
- Ask questions that will help paint a picture of what day-to-day life is like at that job and if that sort of career would be good for you.

The informational interview

- Consider interviewing multiple people in similar careers to get an idea of the spectrum of experiences people have.
- Review what you have learned. Compare this information to your skills, interests, and values.
- Discuss what you have learned with other Postdocs at the February session. Compare what you found with others who interviewed people in similar careers.

Additional resources for conducting an informational interview

<https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2013/08/getting-inside-scoop-science-careers>

<https://science.nichd.nih.gov/confluence/display/newsletter/2013/04/03/Career+Planning+with+myIDP%3A+Informational+Interviews>

<https://careers.unc.edu/students/exploring-majors-and-careers/informational-interviewing>

<https://grad.ncsu.edu/news/2019/10/career-research-tips/>

Session 2

February 22, 2020:

Results of informational interviews, setting career goals, and reflection on what all this means for your professional and career development

What comes next?

Charge for the next session:

Conduct 2-3 informational interviews with a scientist within one or more of your career paths.