

**Class Description:****ECE 8893: Future Faculty Training Program- Practicum**

This class provides individualized mentorship for graduate students getting ready to apply to faculty positions.

The class objective is to prepare students interested in applying for faculty positions for interview season and for successful start of academic career. After this class, students will have prepared material for applying for academic positions as well as developed interview talk with detailed feedback.

**Textbook:** None

**Prerequisites:** None

**Grading:**

20% Attendance and participation in discussions

50% Homework and assignments

30% Final Presentations

**Course Objectives**

As part of this course, students:

1. Will gain an insight into academic job market application process
2. Will learn and practice preparing documents for the application
3. Will learn and practice how to prepare for the interview, how to give oral presentations, and how to interact with faculty during the interview

**Course Educational Outcome:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be prepared for academic interview season.

**Topics for Discussion:**

Starting faculty job applications process

- How to start the process?
- Where to look for advertisements? How to interpret the advertisements?
- How to select to which schools to apply?

Why people become faculty?

- Discuss difference between research and teaching oriented institutions
- Do school rankings matter?
- What faculty love about their job, and what are the sacrifices

Writing an effective CV

- Content
- Format
- Style

#### Research statement

- Content
- Format
- Style

#### Teaching philosophy statement

- Content
- Format
- Style

#### Interview presentation

- Content of the presentation
- Presentation style
- Answering questions during the interview

#### Letter writers

- How to choose letter writers
- How to approach them, help them with the process, thank them

#### Proposal writing

- Understanding call for proposals and reading guidance
- Scope and content of proposal
- NSF CAREER and why it matters

#### Mockup interviews

- Invite several faculty to listen to students presentations, ask questions, etc.

#### Lab work

In addition to lecture time, faculty will spend 30 min each week with each student (total of 10h per week + grading)

Here are examples of homework/lab assignments:

Assignment 1: Identify which schools would you like to apply and identify deadlines and needed documentation. Write a short document and share with faculty who is advising you through practicum class.

Assignment 2: Interview three faculty (one assistant, one associate, and one full professor) in your and/or neighboring areas. Summarize findings and discuss them with faculty teaching the practicum class. (2 weeks)

- Gain insights into why did they become professors.
- Find out what excites them about the job
- Find out what are the main obstacles making them successful at job.
- Find out what is frustrates them the most.
- Ask for one advice they would give you if they would start career again

Assignment 3: Prepare CV and submit for a feedback (1 week)

Assignment 4: Write teaching philosophy and research statement documents and submit for feedback to faculty teaching the practicum class (2 weeks)

Assignment 5: Meet with faculty teaching the practicum to discuss interview presentation and how to make it, also discuss potential letter writers (1 week)

Assignment 6: Identify directories in NSF where your research can be submitted and read Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (1 week)

Assignment 7: Discuss with faculty for this class potential topics for proposal (1 week)

Assignment 8: Write a short proposal (6 pages) in NSF-like format on a potential topic for NSF Career grant (3 weeks)

Assignment 9: Prepare presentation and give a talk, discuss outline with practicum professor (last week of the semester)

**Academic Honor Code:** The Honor Code applies to every aspect of this class, with only one noteworthy exception: student discussion of concepts and techniques for solving homework problems is permitted and even encouraged outside the classroom. However, *all submitted work must be original*. More details on academic honor code can be found at: <http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code>

**Access and Accommodations:** At Georgia Tech we strive to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services to explore reasonable accommodations. More details can be found at: <https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>

**Absence Policy:** The class will follow institute absence policy detailed at <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>