


So You Think You Want to Be a Researcher

So You Think You Want to Be a Researcher?

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Objectives

“What is it like to be a researcher?”

- Describe research careers and scientists’ work

“How do I become a researcher?”

- Review pathways to being a researcher



Objectives

“How will I finance education and training?”

- Identify scholarships and resources for training

“How do I plan for a successful career?”

- Discuss career planning and development




Why Become a Researcher?




So You Think You Want to Be a Researcher

The Road Less Traveled By



Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

- Robert Frost,
The Road Not Taken



Helpful Characteristics

- Curious
- Good critical analysis
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Patient, persistent
- Motivated, self-disciplined
- Can cope with delayed gratification & rejection
- Social skills
- _____ ?



Sample Day of a Researcher

Time	Activity
9:00 am	Guest lecture to research fellows (Issues in Authorship)
11:00	Meeting about grant budget proposal with administrators
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00	Writing time (R01 grant proposal)
3:00	Edit manuscript re: pilot study
4:00	Bi-weekly meeting on progress of current studies with study team

Choosing a Doctoral Program

- What are your goals? (destination)
- Where are you starting from?
 - Professional or post-professional
- What resources and supports do you have?



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Degree Options

- PhD in terminal field (OT)
- PhD in related field
 - EdD, PhD Psychology
- Clinical Doctorate
 - Professional
 - Post-professional
- Master's
 - Professional
 - Post-professional



PhD Program Structure



- Courses
- Qualifying exams/tasks
- Dissertation Proposal
- Dissertation
 - Collect data, analyze, write
- Oral Defense
- Graduate



Example: Jo (has MSOT)

Goal: Research

- PhD in OT
- Post-doc at research university
- Career development award (K12 or K01) at research university
- Assistant Professor, tenure-track at research university

Goal: Teach + Research

- PhD in educational psychology
- Assistant Professor of OT at _____ Univ.



	Career Stage	Grant Funding	NIH Mechanism
Research Training	Predocctoral	Training Awards	T Series
	Postdoctoral	Fellowship Awards	F Series
Independent Investigator	Early Career	Career Development Awards	K Series
	Mid Career	Investigator Initiated Awards	R Series
	Advanced Career	Program, Center Awards	P Series

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Can I Be a Researcher with an OTD?

- Answer?
- Yes – depends
 - Depends upon region/university
 - Depends upon your employer
- Check clinical doctorate's curriculum
- May need extra research training
 - Ask @ research productivity



Show Me The \$\$ Money

- Teaching Assistantships (TAs)
- Research Assistantships
- Ford Foundation Diversity Predoctoral Fellowships (for certain fields)
- VA Awards and NIH Fellowships (e.g., F31)
- AOTF Dissertation Grants
- NIH Loan Repayment Program
- Army's D.Sc.OT Program (TX)



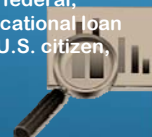
AOTF Dissertation Grants

- Available to OTs whose dissertation research directly contributes to one of the profession's [Research Priorities and Parameters of Practice for Occupational Therapy](#)
- <http://www.aotf.org/scholarshipsgrants/dissertationresearchgrantprogram.aspx>
- Application due date: Nov. 1
- Complete dissertation within 3 yrs



NIH Loan Repayment Program

- 5 extramural LRPs are:
 - Clinical Res., Pediatric Res., Health Disparities Res., Contraception & Infertility Res., & Clinical Res. for Individuals of Disadvantaged Backgrounds
- To qualify,
 - doctoral degree, work ≥ 20 hours/wk in res. funded by a nonprofit organization or federal, state, or local government entity; educational loan debt ≥ 20 percent of salary; and be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident.
- Visit www.lrp.nih.gov



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US Army Clinical Doctorate

- Mission: DScOT (post-professional)
- 18 mo. Program
- Obligation: 60 mos. Active duty (incl. training)
- Eligibility:
 - US citizen
 - Bachelors or masters in OT
 - Min. GPA of 3.0
 - Physical fitness standards
 - Current GRE



US Army D.Sc.OT

- Receive competitive salary, family medical care, housing allowance, 30 days vacation, 12 holidays, retirement benefits
- Contact Lt. Col. Ricky Joseph, OTR/L, PhD (210) 916-5805

Ricky.joseph@amedd.army.mil



Career Planning

- Know yourself
 - Goals?
 - Process?
- What do you want to be doing in 5 yrs?
- What do you want to be doing in 10 yrs?



Resources

- Science E-magazine
<http://www.sciencemag.org/>
- Social Science Research Network
<http://ssrn.com/>
- Doctoral Network (AOTF)
Mindy A. Hecker, MBA, MLS, AOTF
mhecker@aotf.org



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Advice

- Dip your toe: ex. research assistant, FW @AOTA
- Choose research thesis option
- Choose doctoral programs and mentors carefully
- Choose your first job based upon career goals
- Look for mentors everywhere; other fields
- Don't give up!



Discussion – Questions?

Thank You

