

Teaching at Different Types of Universities and Colleges

Career Resource Center



PACIFICA
GRADUATE INSTITUTE

Types of Institutions to Consider

- Research Universities
- Teaching Oriented Universities/Colleges
- Liberal Arts Schools
- Professional Schools and Departments
- Non-Traditional Schools
- Online Schools and Online Coursework
- Community Colleges



A few terms to define

- In the U.S. colleges tend to have one area of study while universities are a collection of colleges and tend to be larger entities. Community colleges are an exception to this naming convention.
- Public universities and colleges are funded by local and state governments while private schools rely on tuition, endowments, and private funds.
- Non-profit and for-profit schools have different financial models

Research Universities

- Most large, well known universities in the United States fall into this category
- Carnegie classifications
- Consider the type of teaching and research career you would have at this type of school



Teaching Oriented Schools



- Departments focus on teaching over research or publication
- Committee work, teaching load, undergraduate vs. graduate students
- Consider the type of teaching career you would have at this kind of school

Liberal Arts Schools

- Four year colleges, often private
- Some are “special mission”
- Broad and interdisciplinary curriculum
 - Literature, History, Languages, Mathematics, Life Sciences



Copyright 2012

tagxedo.com

Professional Schools and Departments



- Preparation for a specific profession
 - Counseling, Psychology, Social Work, Medicine, Law, etc.
- Curriculum, teaching, and student population

Psyche in flux, or Portrait of a therapist at left

Non Traditional Universities

- Specialty schools with a unique point of view or curriculum delivery format
- Curriculum and students centered around a specific point of view
- Small communities; fit is very important



Teaching Online

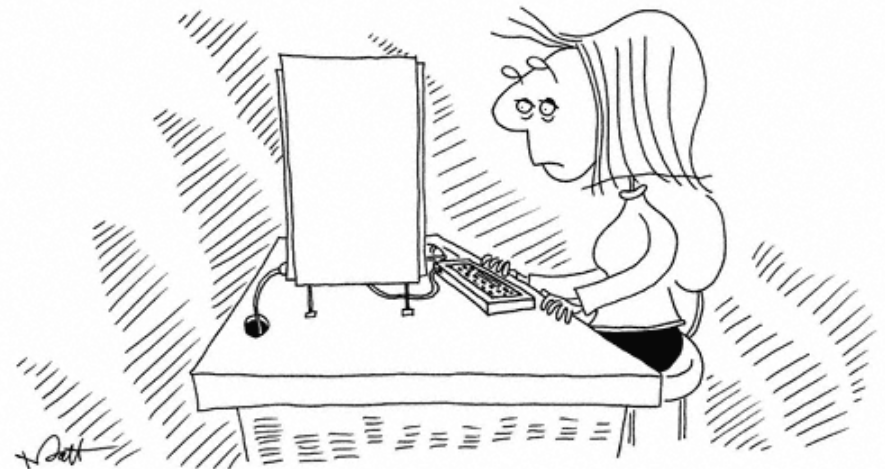
Online schools

- Geared towards adult learners
- Accelerated degree programs are the norm
- You can teach from anywhere
- Curriculum delivery and teaching experience vary widely
- Technology requirements

Online coursework

- Traditional schools will have online sections of their already developed curriculum

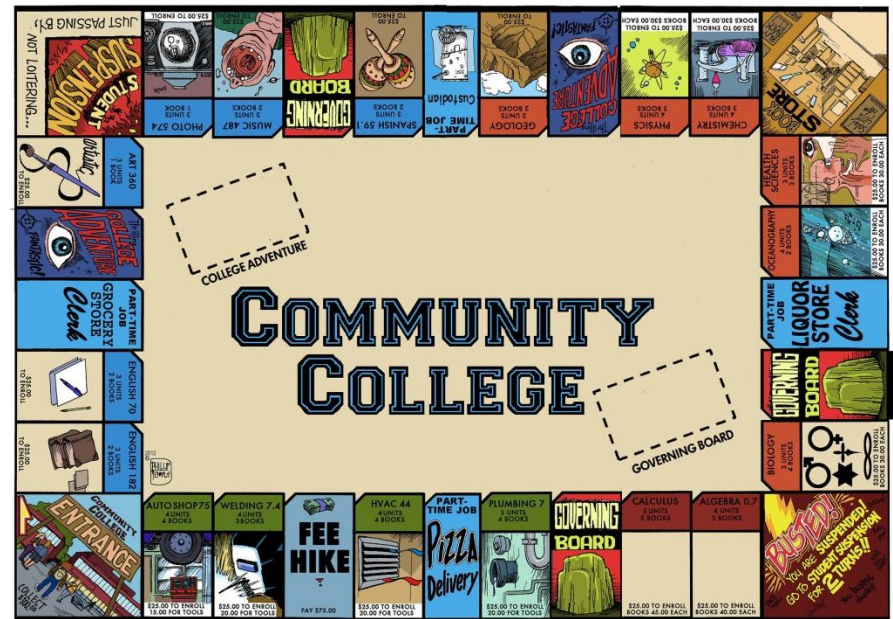
Teaching Online



"You have 736 new messages!"

Community Colleges

- 2 year schools which provide
 - General Education for transfer to 4 year school
 - Vocational and Professional Training
 - Continuing Education
- Diversity in student population
- Teaching load



Positions to Consider

- Professor, Assistant, and Associate Professor, or Core Faculty titles usually mean tenure track positions
- Lecturers
- Adjunct Faculty
- Research positions
- Faculty equivalent appointments

Further Resources

- Explore the career center for more information on teaching careers.