Teaching at Different Types of Universities and Colleges

Career Resource Center
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
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.