



JOB DESCRIPTION

College and university faculty make up the majority of postsecondary teachers. They teach and advise more than 16 million full- and part-time college students and perform a significant part of our Nation's research. They usually teach several different related courses in their subject, instruct undergraduate or graduate students, advise and work with students individually, and may also supervise graduate students' teaching and research. Faculty keep abreast of developments in their field by reading current literature, talking with colleagues, and participating in professional conferences. They may also do their own research to expand knowledge in their field in order to publish their findings in scholarly journals, books, and electronic media. Most faculty members serve on academic or administrative committees that deal with the policies of their institution, departmental matters, academic issues, curricula, budgets, equipment purchases, and hiring. Faculty members at universities normally spend a significant part of their time doing research; those in 4-year colleges, somewhat less; and those in 2-year colleges, relatively little. The teaching load, however, often is heavier in 2-year colleges and somewhat lighter at 4-year institutions.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Four-year colleges and universities usually consider doctoral degree holders for full-time, tenure-track positions, but may hire master's degree holders or doctoral candidates for certain disciplines, such as the arts, or for part-time and temporary jobs. Most college and university faculty are in four academic ranks—professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and instructor. Most faculty members are hired as instructors or assistant professors. A smaller number of additional faculty members, called lecturers, are usually employed on contracts for a single academic term and are not on the tenure track. In 2-year colleges, master's degree holders fill most full-time positions. However, in certain fields where there may be more applicants than available jobs, institutions can be more selective in their hiring practices. Many 2-year institutions increasingly prefer job applicants to have some teaching experience or experience with distance learning. Preference also may be given to those holding dual master's degrees, especially at smaller institutions, because they can teach more subjects.

SALARIES

Average: \$68,505

Tenured Professors \$91,548

Associate Professors: \$65,113

Assistant Professors: \$54,571

Instructors: \$39,899

Lecturers: \$45,647

private independent institutions: \$79,3

public institutions: \$66,851

religious colleges/universities: \$61,103

EMPLOYMENT & ADVANCEMENT PROSPECTS

Overall, employment of postsecondary teachers is expected to increase 27 percent or more for all occupations through 2014. A significant proportion of these new jobs will be part-time positions. Job opportunities are generally expected to be very good—although they will vary somewhat from field to field—as numerous openings for all types of postsecondary teachers result from retirements of current postsecondary teachers and continued increases in student enrollments. Projected growth in college and university enrollment over the next decade stems mainly from the expected increase in the population of 18- to 24-year-olds, who constitute the majority of students at postsecondary institutions, and from the increasing number of high school graduates who choose to attend these institutions. Adults returning to college to enhance their career prospects or to update their skills also will continue to create new opportunities for postsecondary teachers, particularly at community colleges and for-profit institutions that cater to working adults. However, many postsecondary educational institutions receive a significant portion of their funding from State and local governments, so expansion of public higher education will be limited by State and local budgets.

RELATED OCCUPATIONS

- Counselors
- Librarians
- Teachers
- Education administrators

REFERENCES

Council of Graduate Schools, One Dupont Circle, NW, Suite 430, Washington, DC 20036-1173. Internet:
<http://www.preparing-faculty.org>

U.S. Department of Labor, *Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2006-07 Edition*, Teachers—Postsecondary, on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos066.htm>