Making Connections Timeline and Checklist

There simply is no way to obtain a faculty job without making professional connections. Even applying for a position requires several people in the profession vouch for your potential. Certainly, these connections can be left to fate, but the most successful psychologists are also masters at cultivating professional relationships. So, here are idealize goals to set for yourself in order to establish the type of professional network that leads to success in the modern academic job market.

Year 1

- □ Obtain a primary mentor.
- □ Create professional social media accounts and join academic websites.
- □ Follow professionals in your specialization on social media and on academic websites.
- □ Follow professional organizations in your specialization on social media.
- □ Network with peers and potential mentors at professional conferences.

Year 2

- □ Seek out secondary mentors in your specialization at your university.
- □ Network with peers and potential mentors at professional conferences.

Year 3

- □ Seek out mentors from other institutions who currently hold faculty positions that fit your career goals.
- □ Meet with mentors to discuss your career aspirations.
- □ Invite mentors to review your work (i.e., observe teaching, review research).
- □ Network with peers and potential mentors at professional conferences.
- □ Network with peers and potential mentors via social media.
- □ Ensure that you have at least four people who can serve as writers of reference letters.

Year 4+

- □ Meet with mentors to discuss your plans to enter the academic job market and assess if they would be valuable references.
- □ Create a professional website.
- □ Update all academic social networking websites with your current CV and professional accomplishments.
- □ Network with peers and potential mentors at professional conferences.
- □ Network with peers and potential mentors via social media.

This material is a companion to *Becoming a Psychology Professor: Your Guide to Landing the Right Academic Job*, by Guy A. Boysen. An overview of the book can be viewed on the American Psychological Association website (https://www.apa.org/pubs/books/4313054).

Additional supplemental material is available on the book's companion website (http://pubs.apa.org/books/supp/boysen/).