Teaching Timeline and Checklist

There are innumerable steps along the path to teaching excellence and distilling them to a simple checklist is impossible. Nonetheless, following this timeline and checklist will result in a record that signals an impressive level of dedication to teaching. The goals on the list can and should be modified based on career goals. For graduate students planning for a career at a doctoral university, the key goals may be taking a college teaching course, working as a teaching assistant, and instructing one course. If a job at a baccalaureate or community college is the goal, these goals are a good fit but there is no upper limit to the number of courses that should be independently taught; more experience is always better. At master's universities, these goals are a good fit, but they must be balanced with simultaneous research productivity. No matter where you intend to become a professor, teaching will be part of your job, and these goals will help you be prepared for that aspect of your career.

Year 1

- □ Obtain a position as a teaching assistant.
- □ Join the Graduate Student Teaching Association of the Society for the Teaching of Psychology.
- □ Start reading journals about the teaching of psychology.

Year 2

- □ Obtain a position as a teaching assistant in additional courses.
- □ Give guest lectures in courses.
- □ Seek out involvement in the university teaching center.
- □ Attend a teaching-focused research conference.
- □ Complete a course on college teaching.
- □ Write a teaching philosophy statement.

Year 3

- □ Complete additional college teaching courses or workshops.
- □ Obtain a position as the instructor of record for a course.
- □ Seek out a teaching mentor.
- □ Have mentors observe teaching and provide written feedback.
- □ Plan and conduct a scholarship of teaching project.
- □ Present scholarship of teaching project at a teaching-focused conference.
- □ Document teaching and course modifications based on assessment of learning outcomes and student evaluations.
- □ Obtain experience relevant to academic advising.

Year 4+

- □ Create a teaching portfolio.
- □ Complete additional college teaching courses or workshops.
- □ Obtain positions as the instructor of record for additional courses; this may include work as an adjunct at other institutions if there are not sufficient opportunities at your home university.
- □ Plan and conduct a scholarship of teaching project.
- □ Present a scholarship of teaching project at a teaching-focused conference.
- □ Publish a scholarship of teaching project in a teaching-focused journal.
- □ Propose and lead a teaching-related professional development seminar or workshop at your university.

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/).