Preparing Future Faculty

A Professional and Teaching Credential for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars

Preparing Future Faculty is a national program established by the Council of Graduate Schools, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the Pew Charitable Trust and the National Science Foundation.

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) is a free professional development program that offers a tangible credential, which documents a participant's investment in teaching, research, and service in preparation for faculty life.

The core goals of the PFF program are to:

- Better prepare participants for all aspects of their faculty careers including teaching, research and service
- Provide participants with credentialing for a diverse and competitive academic job market
- Develop a positive sustained mentoring relationship with a faculty mentor, providing an in-depth look at a successful faculty career
- Provide a mechanism of recognition for initiative and gained experience in the area of faculty roles and teaching
- Provide a context to encourage reflective thinking about teaching and the processes of teaching and learning, and to reflect on their own goals in this context
- Improve the teaching skills and enhance the professional development of participants, familiarizing participants with teaching and professional resources

TESTIMONIALS

"I definitely recognize the PFF program has helped prepare me as a faculty member."
Hospitality Management

"The experiences ... have all certainly helped with starting my academic career."
Exercise Science

"I found the PFF quite helpful as preparation for being a faculty member. The structure of PFF was well balanced relative to the two faculty positions I have held."
Health Promotion, Education & Behavior

"The PFF credential was very well regarded by my current employer."
~Mathematics

"PFF encouraged thinking critically... and added meaning and values to the activities."
Journalism & Mass Communication

SELECT PFF RESOURCES:

- **Council of Graduate Schools Preparing Future Faculty website with resources, outcomes**
  http://www.preparing-faculty.org/
- **Understanding PhD Career Pathways for Program Improvement CGS Report**
  https://cgsnet.org/publications/understanding-phd-career-pathways-for-program-improvement
- **Strategies to Prepare Future Faculty to Assess Student Learning CGS Report**
  https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318753146_Strategies_to_Prepare_Future_Faculty_to_Assess_Student_Learning
- **What Colleges and Universities Want in New Faculty**
  By K. A. Adams, 2002. Available online: https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED472499

Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) is administered through a partnership between the Center for Teaching Excellence and The Graduate School.

Center for Teaching Excellence
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Preparing Future Faculty: http://sc.edu/cte/PreparingFutureFaculty.php

Preparing Future Faculty

PFF Activities Checklist

Requirements

- Must complete at least **one** activity from **each** of the seven subcategories in the Activities Checklist below while a graduate student at USC.
- 'Other' activities must first be approved by the PFF Program Manager.
- Activities are documented by completing an Activity Reflection (form available on PFF website).
- Must earn a **minimum** of 15 points to earn the PFF credential. Participants may end up with more than 15 points to qualify for their credential because an activity from each subcategory must be represented.
- An asterisked (*) activity indicates expected Mentor involvement, and requires Mentors to complete a separate **Mentor reflection** (form available on PFF website) in addition to participant reflection.

1. Teaching

A. Mentored Teaching *(up to 8 points)*

- Give a lecture in a course at USC* — 1
- Give a lecture in a course at partner school* — 1
- Serve as Graduate Instruction Asst. * (class or lab) — 3
- Serve as Graduate Teaching Asst. * (instructor of record) — 5
- Other:

B. Instruction in Teaching *(up to 4 points)*

- Attend TA Orientation — 1
- Participate in GRAD 701 — 3
- Participate in departmental teaching course (course listing on PFF website) or CTE short course — 3
- Teaching observation by faculty evaluator* — 1
- Other:

C. Teaching professional development *(up to 4 points)*

- Attend CTE teaching sessions (workshop or webinar) — 1
- Attend department/Grad. School teaching-related seminar — 1
- Attend other teaching-related seminar — 1
- Watch recorded CTE teaching webinar — 1
- Other:

2. Research & Scholarly Activity

A. Research/Scholarly Experience *(up to 10 points)*

- Serve as Graduate Research Assistant* — 5
- Participate in GRAD 801 (Presidential Fellows) — 3
- Write & submit a grant proposal (non-travel) — 2
- Publish book review or book chapter — 2
- Submit an article to a professional journal — 2
- Publish an article in a professional journal — 3
- Create and exhibit your work (visual arts)* — 3
- Public performance of original composition — 2
- Publish art/work in juried exhibition or in a special collection — 3
- Win award for research or scholarly activity — 2
- Participate in a research team for a semester* — 3
- Mentor students on a research project (training) — 1
- Mentor students on a research project* (including analysis, report) — 3
- Identify, address, and resolve classroom, course-based, or field-based problem* — 2
- Other:

B. Research/Scholarly Communication *(up to 5 points)*

- Present or poster at Discover USC Day — 2
- Present or poster at state/regional conference — 2
- Present or poster at national/international conference — 3
- Give a departmental seminar about your research — 1
- Present scholarly work to relevant audience — 1
- Participate in organizing a student conference — 2
- Organize a research brownbag series — 2
- Write a blogpost or other online resource about research — 1
- Other:

3. Service

A. Faculty Life / Service / Mentor *(up to 6 points)*

- Tutor college-level students (semester) — 2
- Help with student advisement (undergrad or grad) — 1
- Attend faculty, faculty senate or grad council mtg — 1
- Participate in department or college committees — 1
- Participate in a professional organization — 1
- Participate in a campus/grad student organization — 1
- Provide leadership to a professional organization — 2
- Reviewer for grant/conference proposals/abstracts — 2
- Reviewer/editor for manuscripts/papers — 2
- Volunteer for conference logistics assistance — 1
- Shadow professors at USC or partner school — 1
- Be shadowed by an undergraduate for a day — 1
- Other:

B. Outreach *(up to 3 points)*

- Organize a departmental outreach activity — 1
- Judge a science fair (K-12, college), Discover USC Day, or other student competition — 1
- Give demonstration or lesson in K-12 school — 1
- Participate in service-learning (course-related) — 1
- Participation in a community organization — 1
- Service activity with a community organization — 1
- Conduct a community education session — 1
- Coach academic competition team (season) — 3
- Mentor academic competition team (once) — 1
- Mentor a student for an after-school program — 1
- Shadow an instructor who does outreach — 1
- Other:

Questions?

Contact the PFF Program Manager, Dr. Michelle Hardee, in the Center for Teaching Excellence, at 803-777-1975 or hardeem@mailbox.sc.edu.

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