

Course 1: The Strategic Postdoc
Module 1: Positioning Yourself for the Postdoc

Session 3: Build a Game Plan

Activity 3.1: Exploring Faculty Career Paths

There are three major pathways you can pursue if you want to become a faculty member:

- Research-focused faculty
- Teaching-focused faculty
- Research and teaching-focused faculty

Each position focuses on specific areas and places different values on qualifications or experiences. For each of the rows, write down how much of that type experience is required for the pathway in each column. To inform your responses, consider which qualifications are weighed more heavily to be competitive for each respective pathway. You can ask yourself questions like:

- How much teaching experience is required for a research-focused faculty position?
- Do you need high-impact publications to be eligible for a teaching-focused position?

We have completed the first row to give you a sense of what you can write down.

Qualifications	Research-Focused	Teaching-Focused	Research- and Teaching-Focused
Teaching Experience and Training	Significant teaching experience is not required or expected.	Significant teaching experience is required. Candidates should demonstrate ability to independently create and teach courses; be familiar with evidence-based pedagogy; be able to teach diverse student populations.	Teaching experience is expected. Candidates should demonstrate ability to independently create and teach courses; be familiar with evidence-based pedagogy; be able to teach diverse student populations.
Number of Publications			
Impact Factor (journals) for Publications			
Research Plan			
Teaching Statement			



Student-Facing Roles with Undergraduates			
Grants (awarded during PhD or postdoc)			
Funding Plan			

Table 1: Faculty Pathways ([directly adapted from University of California San Francisco; Office of Career of Professional Development](#))