

# Early Research Strategies for Your Career



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# Session Plan

- Maria's Path
- Maria's Advice
- Kyla's Path
- Kyla's Advice
- Roleplay Activity
- Q&A/Discussion



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# Maria's Advice

- Be yourself, do what you think is important
- Be curious, explore new ideas and look for new collaborations, but do not abandon the area you worked on for your PhD
- Establish your own professional identity
- Be ready to work a lot!



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# Kyla's Advice

- Delegate to free up cycles
  - “Does this task require a PhD?”
- Structure your work day based on how you'll be evaluated
  - Urgent vs Important - Eisenhower's Matrix
  - Research vs Teaching vs Service
- Learn from Senior Faculty
  - You may have to do the heavy lifting/initiating
- Review for Grants Proposals to Learn the “secret sauce”
- Use undergraduate labor to test out new ideas (DREU)
- Become friends with the tenure committee representative
  - They will have to argue your case to the College/University. Make sure they have ammo
- Collaborate to increase your bandwidth
- Don't be afraid to say no to service requests



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# General Advice



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# Academic Research Strategy

- Choose topics you care about/ interest you
- Quality not quantity
- Establish your own themes
- Define the new problems



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# Academic Collaboration

- Need to work independently with your own students
- Work with undergraduates and graduates
  - Initially will require a lot more work than doing things yourself.
- Develop network of collaborations



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# Academic Networking

- Conferences: listen, participate, ask questions!
- Every presentation/interaction matters
- Be prepared with concise descriptions of your own work



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# Scenario Roleplay



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# Scenario 1

- **Role:** Faculty Member
- **Situation:** You have been serving on numerous committees, organizing departmental events, and volunteering for various service roles within the university for the past few years. You feel overwhelmed by the workload and believe it is affecting your research and teaching. You want to discuss this issue with your department chair.
- Faculty Member (You): Knocking on the department chair's office door.
- Department Chair: Come in.



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# Scenario 2

- **Role:** Faculty Member
- **Situation:** You are in a department where research resources (lab space, office space for students, etc) are limited, and there is ongoing tension between faculty members over access to these resources. You are experiencing challenges in securing the resources you need for your research and want to discuss this with the dean.



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# Scenario 3

- **Role:** Faculty Member
- **Situation:** You have been called in by your department chair for a meeting, and you suspect it's about your progress towards tenure. You are aware that you may not have enough for your tenure packet, and you are prepared to discuss your concerns and seek guidance.
- Faculty Member (You): Knocking on the department chair's office door.
- Department Chair: Come in.



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# Scenario 4

**Role:** Faculty Member

- **Situation:** You have been experiencing harassment from a senior colleague, and you decide to file a formal complaint with the university's HR department. You are seeking guidance from a trusted colleague or friend.
- Faculty Member (You): Knocking on colleague's office door.
- Colleague: Come in.



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# Discussion / Questions



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