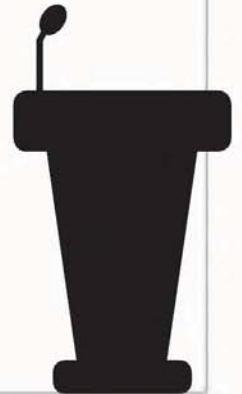




COLLEGE PROFESSOR

JOB DESCRIPTION

If you are knowledgeable in and passionate about a particular subject and are interested in teaching, you could be a successful professor. College professors teach courses that lead to undergraduate or graduate degrees. They may combine teaching with carrying out research in their area of specialization.



SALARY

Assistant professor ★★★★★
Dean ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Sector predicted to expand globally in line with developing economies • Growth in opportunities in on-line education • Employment mostly on short-term contract basis

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Teaching • Writing scholarly articles • Planning and problem-solving • Reading and research within a chosen field • English



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS A PhD is usually required, although a master's degree may suffice for more junior positions at some colleges.



LIFESTYLE Hours are long but flexible. You may work longer hours if doing research alongside giving lectures. Part-time positions may be available.



LOCATION Professors work in colleges and universities. Field work in an area of research may take them abroad or allow for a yearlong sabbatical.



THE REALITIES Administrative tasks take up the bulk of the working day outside teaching hours. Competition for senior academic posts is stiff.

▼ RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **DISTANCE-LEARNING TEACHER** Supports and teaches distance-learning students remotely (very occasionally conducting seminars at college study centers and summer schools). These teachers provide feedback on assignments, help students understand material, and prepare them for examinations and final assessments.
- ▶ **INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER** Holds a research post or fellowship at a national or international research council, charity, or commercial organization. This position usually follows many years' experience in academic research.
- ▶ **ONLINE TUTOR** Delivers materials, tutorials, and feedback through online learning platforms. They can usually work part-time and from home. Entry qualifications vary.

The best professors have strong public speaking skills, in-depth subject knowledge, and the desire to motivate students.

CAREER PATHS

College professors must be experts in their field. They need not have any formal teaching qualifications; however, some colleges do prefer candidates who have some teaching experience. Progress is related to your academic profile—which is formed in part by the quality of your published research—and your networking skills.

GRADUATE One route is to obtain a graduate degree in a subject for which you have a passion. You will likely obtain some teaching experience along the way.

INDUSTRY PROFESSIONAL A good academic background plus work experience in a particular industry will help you find posts in subject areas such as finance or business studies.



DOCTORAL CANDIDATE PhD programs can take up to six years to complete, and include writing a dissertation, or a paper that details your research. You may be paid to teach undergraduates while working toward your PhD.



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Delivers lectures and seminars while doing original research and publishing papers to raise their profile. May take on departmental tasks.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR Commonly a tenured position. Teaches classes and does scholarly work for publication in academic journals. Has an expanded role in the department.



PROFESSOR Leads the research culture of their department's faculty and focuses primarily on their scholarly activities.



DEAN Directs an institution's teaching and research, funding, and administration. The dean is the head of the college or university, with the position equivalent to being the director of a company.

SKILLS GUIDE



In-depth knowledge and proficiency in a chosen area of expertise.



Excellent communication skills for delivering lectures to students and colleagues.



Well-developed leadership and management skills to direct a research team.



Good organization skills to juggle teaching responsibilities, administrative tasks, and research.



High level of perseverance and dedication to complete research projects to a publishable standard.