

# What will you do with your Ph.D.? GSA's Career Development Subcommittee Explores Careers for Life Science Ph.D.s



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- Thrive as multitaskers, often organizing people & projects
- Have a passion for student development & success (often more than their own!)
- Enjoy developing courses, which often requires staying broadly up-to-date on science
- Constantly communicate with students & other educators & potentially other diverse audiences
- Started early to develop teaching as a passion and recieved support from their mentors or sought support from an external network
- Are aware of funding opportunities and write grants



## PhDs in Academic Administration...

- Have followed a typical academic training
- Have experienced different managing aspects of a teaching institution (teaching, creation of curricula, graduate program admissions, etc.)
- Enjoy mentoring students and improve their learning experience
- Enjoy wearing multiple hats
- Develop great communication skills
- Are extoverted individuals, happy to handle meeting-dense days



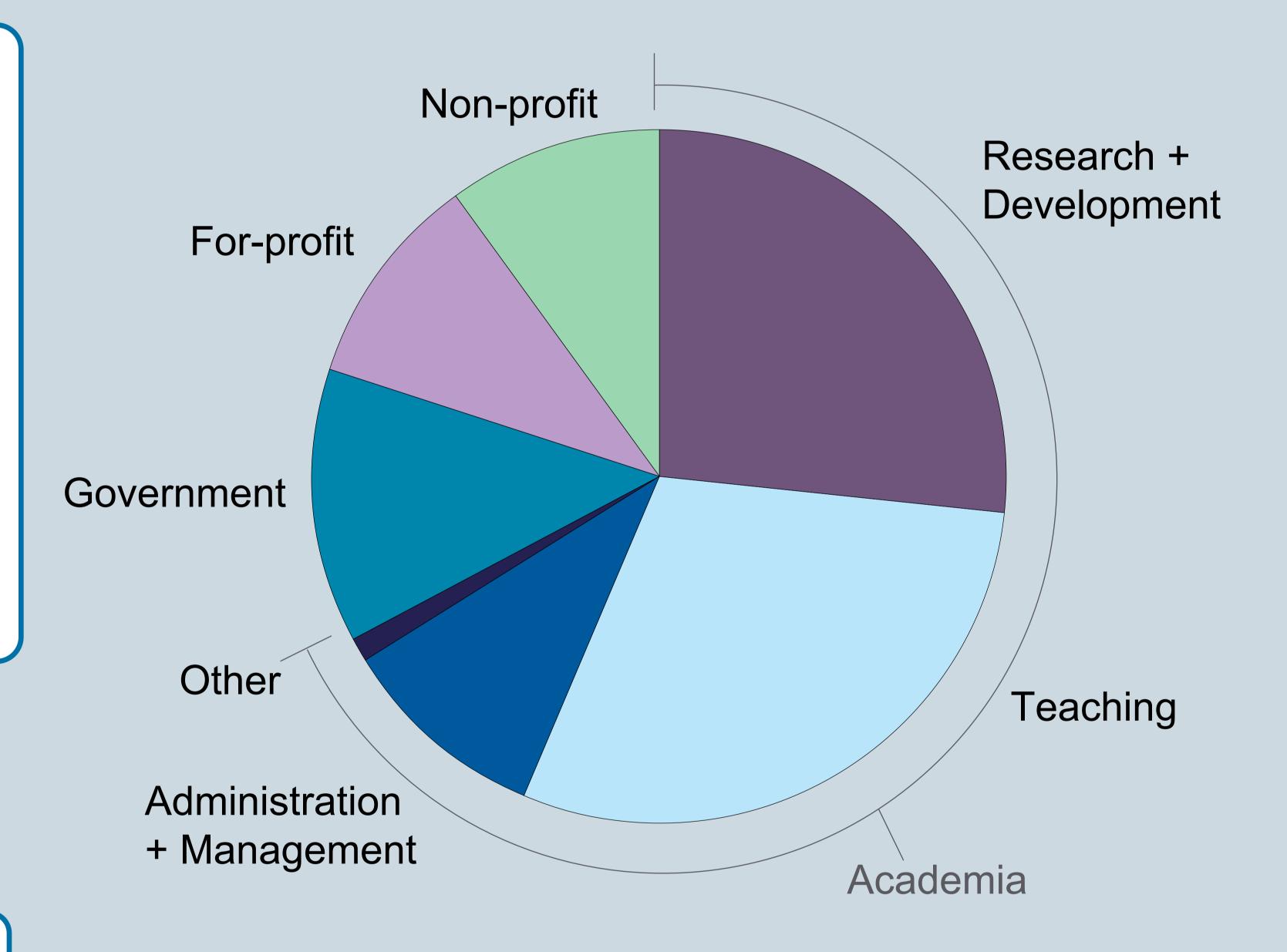
# PhDs in Commercial Development...

- Have a passion for their research topic
- Have very specific technical skills and expertise required for their role
- Do highly applied science (i.e. 23andMe science for all people, AgBiome - science to help farmers)
- Love developing new technology
- Work well with a team

# The Career Development Subcommittee

supports early career scientists as they navigate their career paths, learn about career options, and curate resume-enhancing skills and experiences.

# Click HERE to head over to GSA's Decoding Life Series to learn more about these career paths



Approximately 73% of PhD graduates (2000 -2011) are not employed as research faculty. Figure modified from Alund et al. 2020 Nature Ecology & Evolution

# PhDs in Business...

- Are highly effective at non-technicial skills such as communication and leadership
- Explore careers in business through internships and contract work while pursuing their degree
- Find opportunities via their professional network, including that on LinkedIn
- Have a strong mentor that facilitates their learning in business

## PhDs in Science Communication...

- Are inclined to storytelling
- Have great communication skills
- Sought multiple opportunities to showcase their talent on different platforms (podcasts, blogs, conference reports, etc.)
- Enjoy writing and making science available to the general public
- Are able to highlight their capacities when answering appealing, but vague job ads



# PhDs in Outreach...

- Have creative & people-driven personalities
- Create content to teach awareness about scientific topics
- Enjoy connecting with a diverse audience using strong communication skills
- Enjoy organizing projects, writing grants, and working on a team
- Stay aware of scientific discoveries (broadly) & how to communicate difficult topics to their audience(s)
- Find a way to combine passion for science with another passion to create a rewarding position



### PhDs in Academic Research...

- Communicate with their laboratory members and collaborators
- Active at the university outside of laboratory work such as participating in seminars, committees, and outreach
- Are good mentors and have received good mentorship
- Have effective time management
- Show passion and enthusiasm about science and their work
- Have received and continue to apply for fellowships, training grants, and research grants



# PhDs in Government Research...

- Are proficient in applying for fellowships and training grants
- Have strong professional communication and networking skills
- Work on a team to achieve a well-defined goal
- Are encouraged to seek out information interviews prior to applying for jobs
- Get started early to seek additional training outside of academia



## PhDs in Industry Research...

- Invest significant time and efforts in networking
- Enjoy frequent traveling
- Thrive on self-management of their time
- Are able to quickly and efficiently acquire knowledge beyond their specialty
- Reach out to professionals in the field to define strengths and gaps in their CV