



## 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

### 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://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/cte/graduate\\_teaching\\_assistants/docs/understanding\\_phd\\_career\\_pathways\\_program\\_improvement.pdf](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/cte/graduate_teaching_assistants/docs/understanding_phd_career_pathways_program_improvement.pdf)
- **Strategies to Prepare Future Faculty to Assess Student Learning**  
CGS Report: [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/cte/graduate\\_teaching\\_assistants/docs/strategies\\_prepare\\_future\\_faculty\\_assess\\_student\\_learning.pdf](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/cte/graduate_teaching_assistants/docs/strategies_prepare_future_faculty_assess_student_learning.pdf)
- **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.



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

### 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*



## PFF Activities Checklist

### Requirements

- Must complete at least one activity from each of the seven subcategories in the Checklist below while a graduate student at USC.
- 'Other' activities must first be approved by the PFF Program Manager.
- 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.
- Activities are documented by completing an Activity Reflection (form available on PFF website).
- An asterisked (\*) activity indicates expected Mentor involvement, and requires Mentors to complete a separate reflection (form available on PFF website) in addition to participant reflection.

<b>1. Teaching</b>			
<b>A. Mentored Teaching (up to 8 points)</b>			
• Give a lecture in a course at USC*	1	• Participate in GRAD 701	3
• Give a lecture in a course at partner school*	1	• Participate in departmental teaching course (course listing on PFF website) or TOGS online course through CTE	3
• Serve as Graduate Instruction Asst. * (class or lab)	3	• Teaching observation by faculty evaluator* or participant	1
• Serve as Graduate Teaching Asst. * (instructor of record)	5	• Other:	
• Other:		<b>C. Teaching professional development (up to 4 points)</b>	
<b>B. Instruction in Teaching (up to 4 points)</b>		• Attend CTE teaching sessions (workshop or webinar)	1
• Attend TA Orientation	1	• Attend department/Grad. School teaching-related seminar	1
		• Attend other teaching-related seminar	1
		• Watch recorded CTE teaching webinar	1
		• Other:	
<b>2. Research &amp; Scholarly Activity</b>			
<b>A. Research/Scholarly Experience (up to 10 points)</b>			
• Serve as Graduate Research Assistant*	5	• Mentor students on a research project* (including analysis, report)	3
• Participate in GRAD 801 (Presidential Fellows)	3	• Identify, address, and resolve classroom, course-based, or field-based problem*	2
• Write & submit a grant proposal (non-travel)	2	• Other:	
• Publish book review or book chapter	2	<b>B. Research/Scholarly Communication (up to 5 points)</b>	
• Submit an article to a professional journal	2	• Present or poster at Discover USC Day	2
• Publish an article in a professional journal	3	• Present or poster at state/regional conference	2
• Create and exhibit your work (visual arts)*	3	• Present or poster at national/international conference	3
• Public performance of original composition	2	• Give a departmental seminar about your research	1
• Publish art/work in juried exhibition or in a special collection	3	• Present scholarly work to relevant audience	1
• Win award for research or scholarly activity	2	• Participate in organizing a student conference	2
• Participate in a research team for a semester*	3	• Organize a research brownbag series	2
• Mentor students on a research project (training)	1	• Write a blogpost or other online resource about research	1
		• Other:	
<b>3. Service</b>			
<b>A. Faculty Life / Service / Mentor (up to 6 points)</b>		<b>B. Outreach (up to 3 points)</b>	
• Tutor college-level students (semester)	2	• Organize a departmental outreach activity	1
• Help with student advisement (undergrad or grad)	1	• Judge a science fair (K-12, college), Discover USC Day, or other student competition	1
• Attend faculty, faculty senate or grad council mtg	1	• Give demonstration or lesson in K-12 school	1
• Participate in department or college committees	1	• Participate in service-learning (course-related)	1
• Participate in a professional organization	1	• Participation in a community organization	1
• Participate in a campus/grad student organization	1	• Service with a community organization	1
• Provide leadership to a professional organization	2	• Conduct a community education session	1
• Reviewer for grant/conference proposals/abstracts	2	• Coach academic competition team (season)	3
• Reviewer/editor for manuscripts/papers	2	• Mentor academic competition team (once)	1
• Volunteer for conference logistics assistance	1	• Mentor a student for an after-school program	1
• Shadow professors at USC or partner school	1	• Shadow an instructor who does outreach	1
• Be shadowed by an undergraduate for a day	1	• Other:	
• 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](mailto:hardeem@mailbox.sc.edu).