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Academic Self-Help Books

Applying to and Surviving Graduate School

Is Graduate School Really for You? by Amanda I. Seligman
So You Want to Be a Professor? A Handbook for Graduate Students by P. Aarne Vesilind
Graduate Study for the Twenty-First Century: How to Build an Academic Career in the Humanities by Gregory M. Colon Semenza
Getting What You Came For: The Smart Student’s Guide to Earning an M.A. or a Ph.D. by Robert Peters

Writing the Dissertation

“[S]ome researchers seem never able to finish; they think they have to keep working until their report, article, dissertation, or book is perfect. No such perfect document exists, ever has, or ever will. All you can do is make your report as close to right as you can, given the time available.”—Booth, Colomb, and Williams, The Craft of Research

Writing Your Dissertation in Fifteen Minutes a Day: A Guide to Starting, Revising, and Finishing Your Doctoral Thesis by Joan Bolker
Writing the Doctoral Dissertation: A Systematic Approach by Gordon B. Davis and Clyde A. Parker
The Faculty Mentor’s Wisdom: Conceptualizing, Writing, and Defending the Dissertation, edited by Raymond L. Calabrese and Page A. Smith
Successful Dissertations and Theses: A Guide to Graduate Student Research from Proposal to Completion by David Madsen
Destination Dissertation: A Traveler’s Guide to a Done Dissertation by Sonja Foss and William Waters
Authoring a Ph.D.: How to Plan, Draft, Write and Finish a Doctoral Thesis or Dissertation by Patrick Dunleavy
Writing the Winning Dissertation: A Step-by-Step Guide by Allan A. Glatthorn
How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation by David Sternberg
The Clockwork Muse: A Practical Guide to Writing Theses, Dissertations, and Books by Eviatar Zerubavel
The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation by Dr. Carol M. Roberts
Writing Your Doctoral Dissertation: Invisible Rules for Success by Rita S. Brause
Approaches to Research: A Handbook for Those Writing a Dissertation by Robin Higgins
A Practical Guide to the Qualitative Dissertation by Sari Knopp Biklen and Ronnie Casella
Writing the Qualitative Dissertation: Understanding by Doing by Judith M. Meloy
Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation by Irene L. Clark

Secrets for a Successful Dissertation by Jan Secrist, et al.

Theses and Dissertations: A Guide to Planning, Research, and Writing by R. Murray Thomas and Dale L. Brubaker

The Craft of Research by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams


Finish Your Dissertation Once and For All! How to Overcome Psychological Barriers, Get Results, and Move On with Your Life by Allison B. Miller

The Elements of an Effective Dissertation and Thesis: A Step-by-Step Guide to Getting it Right the First Time by Raymond L. Calabrese

Complete Your Dissertation or Thesis in Two Semesters or Less by Evelyn Hunt Ogden

The Portable Dissertation Advisor by Miles T. Bryant

Writing Your Dissertation: How to Plan, Prepare and Present Successful Work by Derek Swetnam

Getting a PhD: An Action Plan to Help You Manage Your Research, Your Supervisor and Your Project by John A. Finn

Getting Your PhD: A Practical Insider’s Guide by Harriet Churchill and Teela Sanders

Mastering Your PhD: Survival and Success in the Doctoral Years and Beyond by Patricia A. Gosling and Bart D. Noordam

Academic Writing and Publishing in General

Stylish Academic Writing by Helen Sword

Academic Writing for Graduate Students: Essential Tasks and Skills (2nd edition) by John M. Swales and Christine B. Feak

Professors as Writers: A Self-Help Guide to Productive Writing by Robert Boice

How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing by Paul J. Silvia

Becoming an Academic Writer: 50 Exercises for Paced, Productive, and Powerful Writing by Patricia Goodson

Air & Light & Time & Space: How Successful Academics Write by Helen Sword

Write to the Top! How to Become a Prolific Academic by W. Brad Johnson and Carol A. Mullen

Publish, Don’t Perish: The Scholar’s Guide to Academic Writing and Publishing by Joseph M. Moxley

Writing for Scholarly Publication by Anne Sigismund Huff


Successful Publishing in Scholarly Journals by Dr. Bruce A. Thyer
Writing for Publication: Road to Academic Advancement by Kenneth T. Henson

The Work of Writing: Insights and Strategies for Academics and Professionals by Elizabeth Rankin

The Handbook of Academic Writing: A Fresh Approach by Rowena Murray and Sarah Moore

An Author’s Guide to Scholarly Publishing by Robin Derricourt

Handbook for Academic Authors (5th edition) by Beth Luey

Turning the Dissertation into a Book

From Dissertation to Book by William Germano

Getting It Published: A Guide for Scholars and Anyone Else about Serious Books (2nd edition) by William Germano

Revising Your Dissertation: Advice from Leading Editors (updated edition) by Beth Luey


Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction—and Get it Published by Susan Rabiner and Alfred Fortunato

Voice and Vision: A Guide to Writing History and Other Serious Nonfiction by Stephen J. Pyne

The Forest for the Trees: An Editor’s Advice to Writers by Betsy Lerner

Navigating the Job Search


Job Search in Academe: Strategic Rhetorics for Faculty Job Candidates by Dawn M. Formo and Cheryl Reed

Surviving Your Academic Job Hunt: Advice for Humanities Ph.D.s by Kathryn Hume

Getting an Academic Job: Strategies for Success by Jennie Jacobs Kronefeld and Marcia Lynn Whicker

On the Market: Strategies for a Successful Academic Job Search by Sandra L. Barnes

Finding an Academic Job by Karen M. Sowers-Hoag and Dianne F. Harrison


Becoming a New Faculty Member

Advice for New Faculty Members by Robert Boice

New Faculty: A Practical Guide for Academic Beginners by Christopher J. Lucas and John W. Murry, Jr.

Good Start: A Guidebook for New Faculty in Liberal Arts Colleges by Gerald W. Gibson

Life on the Tenure Track: Lessons from the First Year by James M. Lang

A Survival Guide for New Faculty Members Outlining the Keys to Success for Promotion and Tenure by Jeffrey P. Bakken and Cynthia G. Simpson
Succeeding in Academia

The Academic Career Handbook by Loraine Blaxter, Christina Hughes, and Malcolm Tight
Mentor in a Manual by Robert Magnan and A. Clay Schoenfeld
The Academic Self: An Owner’s Manual by Donald E. Hall
The Academic’s Handbook (3rd Edition) by A. Leigh Deneef and Craufurd D. Goodwin
What They Didn’t Teach You in Graduate School: 199 Helpful Hints for Success in Your Academic Career by Paul Gray and David E. Drew
From Student to Scholar: A Candid Guide to Becoming a Professor by Steven M. Cahn

Getting Tenure—and Afterward

Promotion and Tenure Confidential, by David D. Perlmutter
Getting Tenure by Marcia Lynn Whicker, Jennie Jacobs Kronenfeld, and Ruth Ann Strickland
Preparing for Promotion, Tenure, and Annual Review: A Faculty Guide (2nd Edition) by Robert W. Diamond
Publishing for Tenure and Beyond by Franklin H. Silverman
The Academic Portfolio: A Practical Guide to Documenting Teaching, Research, and Service by Peter Seldin and J. Elizabeth Miller
Professing to Learn: Creating Tenured Lives and Careers in the American Research University by Anna Neumann
How Professors Think: Inside the Curious World of Academic Judgment by Michèle Lamont

Identity Politics in Academia

Ms. Mentor’s Impeccable Advice for Women in Academia by Emily Toth
Ms. Mentor’s New and Ever More Impeccable Advice for Women and Men in Academia by Emily Toth
Lifting a Ton of Feathers: A Woman’s Guide to Surviving in the Academic World by Paula J. Caplan
Mama, PhD: Women Write About Motherhood and Academic Life ed. Elrena Evans and Caroline Grant

Leaving Academia

“So What Are You Going to Do with That?” Finding Careers Outside Academia (Revised Edition) by Susan Basalla and Maggie Debelius
Outside the Ivory Tower: A Guide for Academics Considering Alternative Careers by Margaret Newhouse
Life After Grad School: Getting From A to B by Jerald M. Jellison
Working Identity: Unconventional Strategies for Reinventing Your Career by Herminia Ibarra