NISS Virtual Academic Career Fair: Jobs in Stats Departments

Jerry Reiter

Department Chair and Professor of Statistical Science

Duke University

Types of Jobs in Stats Departments

- Tenure track
  - Responsibilities include teaching and research
  - Emphasis varies by department, but typically research is priority number 1
- Teaching track
  - Responsibilities emphasize teaching
  - Other scholarship often required
    - Research, activity in statistical education, national positions
- Research track
  - Responsibilities emphasize research and working on collaborative projects
  - Usually soft money
  - Not as common in Stat departments

Getting a Job

- Seek experiences in grad school tailored to what you want
  - Tenure Track: Write papers and give presentations at conferences
  - Teaching Track: Teach your own summer courses, learn craft of teaching
  - Research Track: Involved in interdisciplinary collaborations
- Generally good idea to do all of these for any position!
- Postdocs especially helpful for tenure track jobs
- Ads in Amstat News, U of Florida website, mathjobs.com

Hiring Trends and Tips

- Before pandemic, departments looking to hire
  - Data science push creating opportunities
- Pandemic has slowed hiring significantly
  - Take advantage of graduate school to work on more projects and write more papers
  - Look for postdocs
- Tips
  - Include reasons why you are interested in the university/department in your cover letter
  - Don't pad your cv (e.g., lots of papers in preparation looks like padding)
  - Work hard on research statement – it matters a lot
  - Practice the job talk – it matters a lot.
  - Apply only for jobs you are interested in, and be realistic