

Clinical Investigator Example Career Plan Outline

The goal of the career plan exercise is to help you articulate your goals and make a plan for achieving them. The career plan should be 1 to 2 pages. Ask yourself what you would like to be doing in 2 years, and then develop a strategy to get there. An example outline for post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty is provided below. However, medical students, residents and other scholars who are not currently post-doctoral fellows should feel free to use whatever outline and format is most helpful for their career development.

- A. Goals: Write down 1 to 3 career goals, and draft a chronology beginning with your current position and the major career steps you would like to take, including the position(s) you would like to occupy in the next 5 years. Draft an ideal job description, including percent of time doing research, clinical work, teaching and administrative tasks. Be as specific and realistic as possible.
- B. Specific objectives: Now, thinking just about the next 2 years,
- For each year, list what, specifically, how you will spend your time
 - Percent research
 - Percent coursework
 - Percent clinical (subdivide by inpatient/outpatient, etc.)
 - Percent teaching (subdivide as appropriate)
 - List specific mentors and other colleagues you would like to work with, with specific roles for each mentor
 - List and timetable specific skills you would like to obtain in each of these arenas
 - List and timetable specific research projects you would like to work on in order of priority. This may include courses, papers, and/or grants.
 - List and timetable 3 to 5 specific products (e.g., submit publication(s), present abstract(s), complete advanced coursework, obtain ideal job)
 - Identify and list at least 3 potential sources of extramural funding for your career development, including a non-profit foundation, a for-profit company in the biotechnology industry, and a specific NIH Institute or Center. Develop a timeline for preparing one of these applications.
- C. Meet with your mentor to discuss this 1 to 2 page career plan along with your UCSF-format curriculum vitae.