LAND A JOB
AT AN ACADEMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTION

APPLICATION MATERIALS
WHY SHOULD THEY INVEST IN YOU?

- Prestige
- Scientific advances
- Teaching mission
- Dollars

$500,000-$1,500,000
- Prestige
  - Publications (peer-reviewed)
    - Number
    - Quality
  - Letters
  - Fellowships/grants
  - Invited talks
  - Teaching experience
  - Outreach
INTERVIEW PREVENTERS

- Too few publications
- Bad reputation
- Lukewarm letters
- Cover letter/Research statement/Teaching statement not strong
The Chicago Guide to Landing a Job in Academic Biology

C. Ray Chandler
Lorne M. Wolfe
Daniel E. L. Promislow
MAKE A STRONG APPLICATION

• Goal: Informative

• Great first impression

• Efficient

• Explain yourself - why do your credentials make you the best candidate

• There are no short cuts

• Model yours after successful applications
Dear Chair,

Please consider my application to the position of Microbial Ecologist in the Department of Biology at Boston University. I am a microbial ecologist with a strong background in analytical chemistry, metagenomics, and ecosystem science and a particular expertise in using state-of-the-art analytical techniques to study how plant-microbe interactions regulate biogeochemical cycles in complex environments. I seek a tenure-track position that allows me to pursue excellence in research and teaching in these areas. I am eager to join the Department of Biology because I believe my interdisciplinary approach to microbial ecology will complement and expand upon current program strengths in molecular biology, ecology, and biogeochemistry. As a Boston University alumnus and a Massachusetts native, I am also enthusiastic about the opportunity to pursue my professional goals in a place that I know and love.
MAKE YOUR STATEMENTS CLEAR, STRONG, AND EXCITING

1. State the big picture: where your research programs fits in the greater scheme of science or life

2. Amplify (unique things)

3. Stay extremely organized

4. Reference your pubs

5. Tell a Story
CHOOSE LETTERS CAREFULLY

• Written request with deadline
• Provide all application materials in advance
• Direct letter writers
TIPS

• Prepare all application materials equally well - do they each follow your theme?

• Reflect knowledge of the university

• Have scientists outside your field read your application