What is PFF?

The Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFF) at the University of Miami is a professional development series designed to educate and prepare graduate and post-doctoral UM students for academic careers. PFF provides students with opportunities to learn about faculty roles and responsibilities, including teaching, research, and service. The national PFF initiative was launched in 1993 to develop new models for faculty preparation, and UM’s PFF program, founded in 2008, supports a change in culture for graduate education and research at UM.
What Types of Activities Will PFF Students Participate In?

Examples of PFF activities include, but are not limited to:

- Workshops and/or forums where faculty members from different academic units describe and reflect upon the profession.
- Workshops addressing issues such as research ethics, publishing and presentations, promotion and tenure, and faculty governance.
- Seminars designed to educate and coach doctoral students on developing, writing, and defending a dissertation.
- Opportunities for assistance in teaching undergraduate courses in collaboration with tenured teaching faculty.
- Workshops on how to conduct an academic job search, curriculum vitae, interviewing, and presenting an effective “colloquium” or “job talk.”
- Opportunities to receive reflective feedback on progress toward preparation for a successful career.
- Participation in professional development opportunities such as presenting research at the Research and Creativity Forum.

How Does PFF Benefit Doctoral Students?

Top four benefits of participation in PFF programs cited in a national survey:

- Strengthened understanding of faculty roles and interest in an academic career.
- Broadened awareness of diverse institutions.
- Improved knowledge of the job search process.
- Enhanced ability to compete in the job market.

What Makes PFF Valuable?

The national PFF initiative began in 1993 as a joint undertaking of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), originally established to address the disconnect between doctoral education and the demands placed upon new Ph.D.s by the colleges and universities that hire them.

Today, academic institutions expect faculty members to be not only great researchers, but also great teachers who serve the academic community. As the landscape of higher education continues to change, the expectations for faculty members will also remain dynamic. PFF programs better prepare Ph.D. recipients to be viable candidates for faculty positions of their choice in a competitive job market and facilitate the transition from graduate school to the academic profession.

PFF also benefits the academic institutions that hire its participants, given that they are more prepared as faculty members. Likewise, the PFF program provides a competitive edge for doctoral-granting institutions which become better equipped to prepare students for a career in academe.