

RESEARCH ROLES AND TITLES

WHO IS IN MY RESEARCH GROUP?

All groups will look different, varying between disciplines and even within a discipline. Look at the roles below. Some of these are only in science labs, but some of them are in all research settings. Who is in your research group, and what are their roles?

Primary/Principal Investigator (PI)

This person heads up the lab. They hold a terminal degree in their field, hold a faculty position, and have had extensive training in their discipline.

Research Scientist

These people carry out most of the day-to-day research in a lab. They hold advanced degrees but are not faculty on tenure track. Research scientists will often have their own projects or grants under the PI's umbrella. They plan, manage, execute, and present the lab's efforts.

Technician

Individuals responsible for the use, maintenance, and teaching of sophisticated equipment or protocols. Techs often hold bachelor's degrees, though some hold terminal degrees. They train students and may carry out their own research projects.

Post-Doctoral Scholar

Holds a terminal degree and is engaged in a temporary period of mentored research or training to acquire specific professional skills needed to pursue a career path. *Kind of staff, kind of student.* Usually come to an institution to work with a specific PI.

Research Fellow

These researchers usually bring their own funding to the university. They typically hold terminal degrees and non-tenured research positions. Visiting Faculty may also hold this title.

Graduate Student

Students who hold bachelor's degrees and seek an advanced degree (Master's or PhD). Graduates will have their own original project that will contribute to a thesis or dissertation. Usually also hold teaching or research assistantships to help fund their degree.

Research Assistants

Entry-level positions at bachelor's degree level. Work under supervision of senior scientists to run experiments, collect/analyze data, present research findings.



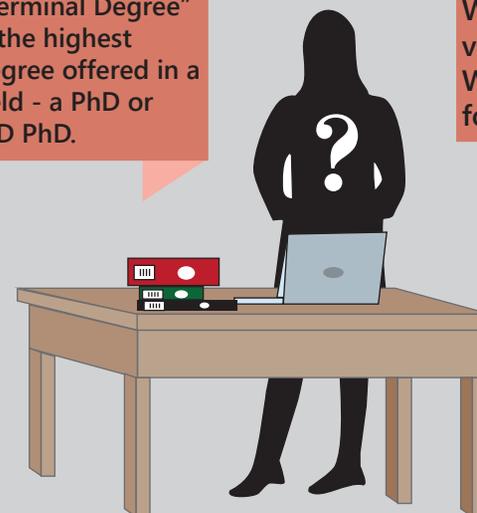
Staff

Faculty

Student

"Terminal Degree" is the highest degree offered in a field - a PhD or MD PhD.

We are leaving out one very important role. What is it? It is the focus of Training 3.



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Resources Used
& More Information

- <http://www.heitmanagement.com/blog/2013/03/what-is-a-provost-an-introduction-to-administrative-and-academic-ranks/>
- <http://euro.econ.cmu.edu/titles/titlebook.htm#Glossary of Titles>
- <http://www.bu.edu/handbook/appointments-and-promotions/classification-of-ranks-and-titles/>
- <http://www.nationalpostdoc.org/policy-22/what-is-a-postdoc>