

Case studies:

Graduate student:

After 10 years of struggling to finish her PhD, and nearing the end of the time when her course work would still count, one client hired me to keep her on track with her writing schedule. She began working with me in October at the recommendation of her advisor, who held out little hope that the goal of finishing in the spring could actually be accomplished. There were many issues to work through, including confidence in her own expertise, how to handle difficult committee members, and what to do about getting permission of the people she interviewed for inclusion in the dissertation. All these issues were successfully handled, and not only did she turn in her actual final thesis on time, she was able to attend her own graduation in May, just eight months after she started working with me.

Professor leaving academia:

After making a career of academia, and nearing retirement, this client contacted me with a great fear and trepidation about what to do once his teaching career was finally over. "I've never done any thing else," he said, and claimed to have no interests or hobbies outside of academia. We began working toward a phased retirement program, so that he would not have to leave academia "cold turkey." He discovered that he did actually have interests outside academia, including theater and traveling, history and writing. In the end, he realized he had a lot of experience writing academic books, but would like to try writing a more popular book. He is currently working on a history of theater in America, beginning with the Dock Street Theater in Charleston, SC.

Professor becoming an entrepreneur:

Social media was her specialty, but was bored by teaching it to students and feeling like the information she had garnered never reached a wider audience. Her writing skills were well honed, and she transitioned them into writing a blog within the space of three months. Now she is a consultant on social media for some large medical establishments making excellent money.

Professor moving into government work:

A young professor of archaeology, she was underpaid and undervalued, struggling to raise a young family with a husband who had a business of his own to support. The constant pressure of finances made her realize that she needed to find something else. After working with me three months to clarify her goals, she began to target US government jobs. Within three more months, she had landed a job as a high level cultural resource manager, making three times her original salary in academia.