

How does someone with a Ph.D. in the Classics end up teaching in a high school, and why does she stay? I will briefly describe my journey to the Classics and to Wayland Academy, and then focus on the challenges and joys of teaching in a college prep high school. While the difference in age groups does entail some change in the way you teach, students can do amazing things if you believe in them by setting high expectations for them. Simply put, there are more similarities than differences between my students and those at the college level. Getting your certification in this uncertain job market is a good idea, but even without it you can find a good job if you are flexible and willing to work a little harder to stay with the discipline you love. In addition to teaching, for example, you may be asked to do dorm duty or even coach a sport. These duties can bring out talents you never knew that you possessed, and they strengthen your relationship with the students; your teaching can improve from being forced to enter uncomfortable territory. Moreover, you can still have an intellectual life, even if most of your time to research comes during the summer, and you still can network and enjoy professional colleagues at conferences such as the APA. All of these things are possible if you do not start with what you cannot do, but rather with what you can do. I fully admit that to do all of the things which you love while learning to enjoy the other duties which you have been given is a challenge. It is not, however, an insurmountable challenge. In the end, the work is hard, but the rewards are great.