

# Typical Academic Interview Questions

## RESEARCH POSITION:

- What are your future research goals?
- How does your dissertation relate to your research interests in the future?
- What is your research agenda?
- Tell us about your experiences with quantitative/qualitative/mixed methods research.
- How did you decide on your research agenda?
- How will your research intersect with the interest of your potential colleagues?
- How can your future research plans enhance your teaching?
- What contribution is your research making to the field?
- What other research topics might you pursue?
- How do you plan to fund your research?
- How many publications do you plan to write for this particular project?
- How many presentations (and where) do you plan on for this project?
- How interested are you in collaborating with other faculty in other disciplines?

## TEACHING POSITION:

- Tell us about your teaching methods, philosophy and goals.
- Tell us about your experiences working with diverse students.
- What was your best, worst, and average teaching evaluation?
- What kinds of pedagogical training would you need as a beginning assistant professor?
- What are your teaching strengths and weaknesses?
- How might you structure an introductory course in the field?
- What are your primary goals when teaching an introductory course?
- What do you most look forward to teaching?
- We need you to teach [a particular class/subject]. How would you approach the course and how do you feel about the subject?
- What are your biggest challenges teaching?
- Tell us about a time when you successfully managed a difficult student and a time when you did not successfully manage a difficult student.
- What students do you find most challenging to teach?
- What do you know about the typical students at this university?
- What sort of teaching technologies have you used before in your courses?
- How comfortable are you teaching via distance education courses?

## SERVICE POSITION:

- Tell us about your service experiences.
- How have you managed your service commitments with teaching, office, hours, and research in the past?
- We need you to serve on the \_\_\_\_ committee. Would you be comfortable serving on that committee?
- What kinds of committees do you enjoy and why?
- What expectations do you have for service as an assistant professor?
- What professional memberships do you hold and why did you become a member?



**COLLEGIALITY:**

- Tell us about your communication and teamwork skills.
- How do you successfully handle disagreements?
- Tell us about a time during your graduate education you were faced with a political situation. What was the outcome?
- How have you decided authorship (etc.) in the past?
- Tell us about your experiences working with others on a project before?
- How do you approach working with diverse students and/or colleagues?

**FROM THE DEAN:**

- How do you see yourself fitting in with the university's/college's/department's mission?
- What grants have you received before and what plans do you have to fund your research?
- What is your research agenda and how does that benefit this college or university?
- Why do you want to work for this university?
- What will be the easiest and most difficult for you to obtain tenure?
- What do you think could be streamlined in your department if you were hired?
- Have you ever been informally disciplined for student complaints before? If so, what occurred?
- Have you ever been formally disciplined for student complaints before? If so, what occurred?

