

Potential Faculty job Interview Questions

When interviewing for a faculty position, here are some questions that you might be asked and should be prepared for. Some of these questions might be asked during a telephone interview and some might be asked during an on-campus interview. Some of these questions may never be asked. Some people may ask you questions that are not on this list. So, during an interview, if you are asked a question that you have not thought about before, it is ok to take a few seconds to think about your answer before talking.

Questions about Research

[When talking about your research, in response to a general question like “tell us about your research”, try to keep it short (~2 minutes). This would be the “elevator speech”. Make sure to hit the highlights and important aspects. If they want to know more, they can ask for more details.]

1. Tell us about your research. (*should be a short 1-2 minute “elevator speech” version*)
2. In what direction would you take your research during the first year?
3. What are your future research plans?
4. What is your 5 year plan (research, funding)?
5. What are your 1, 5, and 10 year goals?
6. Where would you seek funding for your research?
7. Where do you see your research heading before tenure review? How will you describe your research in your tenure packet?
8. What topics would you have your students working on?
9. What do you think about interdisciplinary research?

Questions about Teaching

[When asked about your teaching experience, you should tell them more details about what you have done in the classroom. For example, which courses were the lectures in? What level were the students (undergrad, grad)? What topics did you cover? Did you enjoy it? What did you learn about how you will teach courses? Etc...]

1. Tell us about your teaching experience.
2. Tell us about your teaching style and experience.
3. Describe your teaching experiences. What worked and what didn't.
4. What courses could you teach?
5. What course would you most like to teach, and how would you organize it?
6. What are your feelings about group work in class?
7. Tell us about your successes and failures in the classroom.

Other Questions

1. What is your ideal balance between time devoted to teaching and research?
2. What else would you expect besides money (equipment, students, etc)?
3. ***Why are you interested in us?**
4. We have a diverse student body (CS and IT). What could you contribute to this environment?
5. What do you think the difference between a CS and SE program should be?
6. Degree progress?
7. What would you do if an M.S. student approached you and wanted to work with you?
8. What could you improve about yourself?
9. What accomplishment are you most proud of?