

You've Defended! Now What?

Council for Exceptional Children Conference, 2007

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Sample Interview Questions

Questions you should expect:

- Why do you want to come to [this school]?
- In what specific way will our institution benefit by hiring you?
- Tell me about your dissertation.
- What do you feel are the contributions you have made to your field of study?
- Tell me about your teaching techniques (e.g., group projects, case method, etc.).
- Describe your teaching philosophy.
- In your opinion, what attributes make for the ideal educator?
- What do you find most satisfying in academia? Most frustrating?
- How have your education and training prepared you for this position?
- How would you teach [a specific class]?
- What do you consider your teaching strengths/weaknesses?
- What research do you want to do in the next 5 years?
- What do you consider your research strengths/weaknesses?
- Why did you choose a career in education/special education?

Expect questions about anything and everything on your curriculum vitae!

Questions you can/should ask:

- Is this position fully funded (or might it disappear before anyone is hired)?
- What are you looking for in filling this position? (i.e., what qualifications?)
- What courses are most/least in need of instructors?
- What research funds are available at different levels of the university?
- How is tenure approved at different levels of the university administration?
- What is the teaching load? Will it change over time?
- Are there opportunities to develop new courses?
- What kind of summer support is available?
- What travel money is available?
- Tell me about the health plan.
- Tell me about the retirement plan.

Contents of the Interview Folder

Interview at a Research Intensive University:

Curriculum Vitae
Research presentation handouts/PowerPoint
Future research agenda
Current publication or manuscript in preparation
*Teaching Philosophy
*Course Syllabus

Interview at a Teaching Intensive University/College:

Curriculum Vitae
Teaching Philosophy
Course lecture/presentation handouts
Course Syllabus

Other Options:

Cover letter
References

Interview Tips

- Smile ☺
- Dress neatly
- Make eye contact
- Bring folders for Deans, Department Chairs, Search Committee Members, and other important faculty members
- If presenting at interview, determine audience and facilities (e.g., search committee, students, department, etc.)
- Remember, you are being interviewed by everyone you meet! (Even someone driving you to and from a location and during meals!)
 - Only one glass of alcoholic beverages
 - Eat gracefully (beware of food that is difficult to eat without making a mess)
- Be sure that you are able to articulate all of your strengths. Talk yourself up-no one else will be there to let the interviewers know how good you are!