Sample Interview Questions

Before developing your interview questions, review the description you created for the position and the list of evaluation criteria you developed. Rely on these documents to craft your interview questions. Your questions should elicit answers that will enable you to evaluate candidates on the basis of the criteria you have developed. Interview questions generally fall into three major categories: research, teaching, and academic service. Some sample questions and links to many more available on the web are provided below. This list is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to provide suggestions you can adapt and add to as you develop questions relevant to your search.

Research & Publications:

(For junior scholars):
Tell us about your dissertation: What led you to choose this topic? What research methodology did you use and why? What contributions does your dissertation (and/or other publications) make to the field?

(For senior scholars):
What do you consider to be your major contributions to the field? What led you to choose this topic/these topics? What research methodologies do you use and why? How has your work contributed to the field?

(For all candidates):
What directions do you see your research taking in the next 5-10 years? What is the topic of your next major research proposal and how do you anticipate funding it?

What publications or other academic products do you have in the pipeline (e.g., books, articles, online or web-based publications, patents, creative and artistic works, outreach materials, curricula or other educational materials)?

Describe your experience with interdisciplinary research and/or teaching activities. If none, what interests do you have in interdisciplinary collaboration and how would you establish interdisciplinary connections?

Teaching:

How has your experience and training prepared you to teach the courses required? What books or other materials would you select for Course X, and why?

What other courses would you like to teach or develop?

Tell us how your research has influenced your teaching. In what ways have you been able to bring the insights of your research to your courses at the graduate level? At the undergraduate level?

What is your teaching philosophy? How does it influence your teaching and curriculum development?