

Potential Questions You Need Answered

TEACHING

- What is the process for making teaching assignments, and what factors are used to decide what I am teaching?
- What am I teaching? When will I know?
- Where is this classroom?
- Can I move the date of the final?
- How many office hours should I have? What if the students seem to want much more than that?
- What can/can't I expect a GTA to do?
- How can I get access to course materials from previous years?
- What do I use for evaluation of the course?
- How should I interpret these course evaluations? Which numbers are most important?
- Why do students in the class seem so resistant to learning about this topic?
- Am I assuming too much? Should I be teaching more background material?
- Am I assigning too much?
- Who can review my proposed syllabus?
- I am spending a ton of time preparing for each class. How can I become more efficient?
- I am having trouble maintaining control in class? How do I regain control?
- How do I use feedback from mid-term and end of term evaluations? How do I document that I'm using feedback and improving? **Can someone**
- Can the department chair introduce me at the beginning of my first class, to show departmental support and provide credibility?
- If I have a professional meeting and need to miss class, what is the policy?
- Where is the joint equipment I am supposed to have access to?
- Where can my students sit? I expect to get more students over the years, and this space won't be sufficient – should I worry about this now?
- Are there lab stools? Desk chairs?
- Should I wait to order equipment until after the lab space is ready?
- How can I access my startup funds to start ordering equipment/supplies?
- Is there a computer allocation; how does that work?
- How do I get computer/IT help?
- How do I approach a more senior faculty member who has equipment I would like access to? A more senior faculty member has approached me to ask for access to my equipment – what should I say?

STUDENTS AND OTHER LAB PERSONNEL

- What is the process for getting graduate students into my lab? Are there rotations?
- If the department pays for the student initially, when do I start being responsible?
- How should I let students know that I have an opening in my lab?
- I didn't manage to attract any students to my lab – is that a problem?
- Are there students in interdisciplinary programs that I could take on?
- How should I encourage/discourage particular students to stay in my lab following the initial rotation?
- What course load do the students have, and how many hours in the lab is reasonable to expect?
- What should I consider when choosing my student's thesis committee members?
- Should I take on this student that is moving from another group? Since this involves a complete change in project, what is a reasonable expectation regarding graduation time?
- How many undergrads should I take into the lab? What are UROP and SROP?
- How do I identify undergrads? Should I do UROP?
- How can I manage all of these people?
- How should I counsel a student that just failed the qualifying exam?
- What qualities should I look for in postdoc?

LAB/EQUIPMENT/STUDENT SPACE

- What lab am I assigned? What should I do if this isn't going to be sufficient/suitable?
- Why isn't the lab ready yet? What is the process for getting labs renovated?
- Who is the facilities person and can they help?
- Is there anything that can be done to speed things up?
- Where are animal care facilities and how do I get access/approval?
- What shared equipment or core facilities might be available to individual labs rather than in common spaces?

- Who might I contract to get good postdoc applications? Should I advertise and, if so, how and where?
- When hiring a postdoc, are there departmental norms in terms of salary, office space, length of term, etc.?
- Can I get funding to take a student to a meeting?
- Is there help for students that are non-native speakers of English?
- What should I do if I am worried about a student's mental state?
- How do I advertise for a technician?
- What should I ask in a technician interview? What are the most important things to look for in a "first" technician?
- Should I recruit existing masters students in the hopes that they continue towards PhD?
- How many research students should I aim to work with my first year? What are the expectations regarding mentoring research students when I'm up for tenure?
- Can I give a seminar in this department to showcase my interests to current graduate students?
- What is an independent study course and are students paid to do research for this course? Can I use this as a trial for students?

SERVICE

- Should I say yes to this request by another faculty member?
- How do I say no?
- What service should I be doing my first year? (What is my assignment?)
- Should I serve on the graduate admissions committee right away?
- How is service viewed at tenure time?
- What are the types of service assignments in this department?
- What are the benefits to doing this particular service assignment?
- Should I consider service outside the Ohio State – for my professional societies? How is that viewed at tenure time?

FUNDING

- How do I transfer my R99/K00 award to OSU? How should I use those funds?
- What is the advantage of paying for students from NIH/ federal funds?
- Which type of NIH grant should I apply for? When should I apply?
- What other types of funding sources should I be targeting?
- Who at Ohio State has recent succeeded in earning this "x grant" for junior faculty and can I contact them for tips?
- What foundation grants should I apply for? Who is the Ohio State foundation grant liaison?
- Are there internal funding sources I can apply for?
- What training programs might my students apply to for support, and how?
- Who in the department can help me with budgets and submission?

- How long before the grant deadline do I have to have it ready to go?
- Are there examples of funded proposals to look at?
- Is there a way to have my proposal proofread for English?
- How should I interpret this review of my proposal?
- How many proposals should a junior faculty member in this department submit every year?
- Should I join a team who is writing a large proposal? If so, how do I reach agreement on my responsibilities for contributing to the writing?
- I would like to lead a team who is writing a joint proposal. How do I organize our team so we stay on task and that members meet writing deadlines?
- Can I have my proposal reviewed by an external expert (say someone who has previously served on the study section or panel that I'm targeting)?

RESEARCH

- Should I continue to collaborate with my doctoral or postdoc advisor?
- Should I collaborate with this person who is a giant in the field?
- Should I collaborate? If I collaborate, how will my work be viewed when I come up for tenure?
- Is there someone at Ohio State doing X that I might be introduced to?
- How could I find a collaborator? Is a single meeting with a collaborator usually enough to get the collaborating going? Is it reasonable to be spending this entire term gathering preliminary data before I write any proposal?

OTHER

- What departmental or program retreats are scheduled that I should plan to attend?
- Is there a process by which I can suggest a seminar speaker?
- Should I use my summer salary (part of startup) this summer or next?
- Why haven't I received a paycheck yet?
- I've been asked to participate on a review panel for NSF. What should I expect?
- I was on a review panel for NSF and it appears that hardly any proposals will be funded. Is this normal?
- When should I serve on an NIH review panel? What is the NIH Early Career Reviewer Program?
- We are about to start interviews for a new chair or faculty member. What kinds of things should I be asking the candidates?
- What are the various new faculty orientations and teaching orientations I should go to?
- What is I say "yes" to something and now realize it is way too much for me to do?
- Who will be my mentor beyond year 1?
- Are there department meetings or student activities that I am expected to attend?

