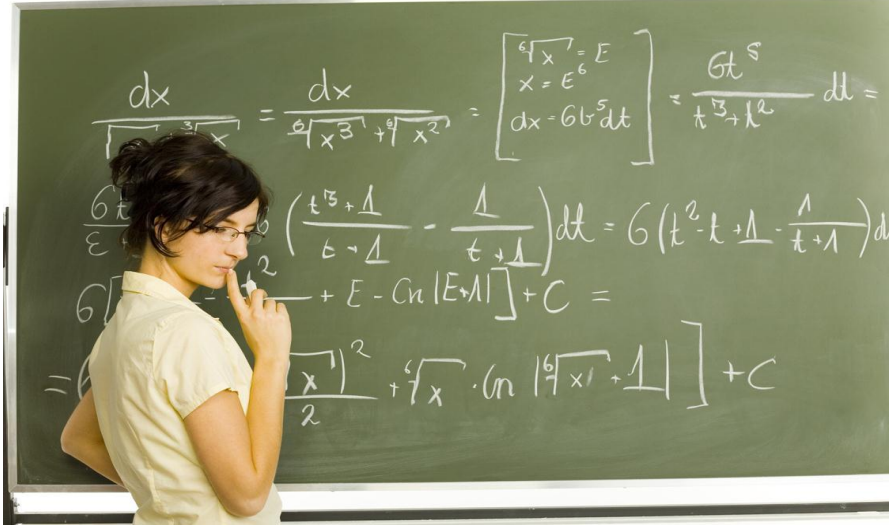


Interview Questions for Education Students



Sample Interview Questions for Teaching Positions

General Questions

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What led to your interest in teaching?
3. What does it mean to be a teacher?
4. What are your greatest strengths? Your greatest challenges? How are you working to overcome these challenges?
5. What two or three job-related accomplishments have given you the most satisfaction?
6. How do you work under pressure?
7. Why do you want to teach in our school/school district? (Research the district/school before the interview so that you are able to effectively communicate why you are interested in working there and why you would be good fit.)
8. What are your short- and long-term goals?
9. In your opinion, what is the ideal relationship between student and teacher?

10. Would you want to be friends with your students?
11. To what organizations do you belong? Have you had other work experience, and if so, what have you gained from these experiences?
12. Do you have plans for continued study?
13. What motivates you to put forth your best effort?
14. What have you learned from the jobs you have held?
15. What types of books do you read for pleasure?
16. Do you think your grades are a good indication of your academic achievement?
17. What causes you to lose your temper?
18. What have you learned from your mistakes/failures?
19. Describe a situation in which you were successful despite being out of your comfort zone.
20. What subjects did you like to study and teach?
21. If you could change any part of your background or experience, what would it be?
22. Why did you choose to attend Pepperdine?

Teaching Experience

1. What qualifications do you have for this position and/or what contributions can you make to our school?
2. How do you assess student progress?
3. What grade levels or subjects do you prefer to teach and why?
4. Tell me about your teaching experience/student teaching experience.
5. Have you had experience with diverse populations?
6. What type of students do you like to work with? Tell me what type of students you believe you can teach most effectively.
7. What do you expect from your principal?
8. Describe your classroom management style.
9. How do you keep students from being bored?
10. How do you approach planning your lessons?

11. Describe a very successful lesson that you have taught.
12. Explain how you would adapt a lesson for a special needs student (i.e., students with disabilities, gifted and talented students).
13. What is your experience using reading programs, such as “Soar to Success” and “Junior Great Books”?
14. Describe the most difficult situation you faced during student teaching and how you resolved that situation.
15. In which specific educational programs are you interested?
16. Please indicate what programs you are trained to implement in the classroom or certificates that you might have.
17. What are your strengths?
18. Please discuss specific ways you integrate technology into curriculum.
19. Can you give me an example of how you communicate with parents?
20. What have been your experiences with collaborative planning and team teaching?

Field Knowledge

1. Tell me what you know about state standards.
2. What research is currently being conducted in education, and what is the potential impact for both educators and students?
3. You have an “at-risk” student who has scored at the 7% on the CORE Level Test or below basic on the K/1 Assessment. What steps would you take? (Expect at least one situational question. You will be given a set of circumstances and asked how you might react to the situation.)

Sample Interview Questions to Ask the Employer

1. Are there opportunities for team teaching or team planning?
2. What reading series do you use?
3. What percentage of students participate in extracurricular activities?
4. Are extracurricular assignments available for teachers interested and qualified in after-school activities?
5. How do your teachers work with parents?
6. What kind of support do you have for students with special needs?

Sample Higher Education Interview Questions

General Questions

1. Why are you interested in this position? Briefly highlight how your education and/or work experience qualify you for this position?
2. What is the role of a leader in managing institutional change?
3. This position requires ability in the area of program development. Please give us detailed information regarding your experience in developing creative leadership programs for students.
4. What is your personal definition of leadership? What do you see as the three main challenges for student leadership development, and how would you address these challenges?
5. This position requires the ability to develop rapport and a strong working relationship with faculty, staff and students. What background or experiences do you have in working with these diverse constituents?
6. Please describe a time when you took the lead or initiative on a project. What were some of the challenges or barriers that you faced? And how did you overcome those challenges/barriers?
7. What particular skills are needed when working with a diverse student population, especially underrepresented students?
8. One of the student government leaders has been neglecting his/her responsibilities. How would you handle the situation, and what would you hope to achieve?
9. The Student Life Office is one of the busiest on campus. How do you prioritize your time, tasks, and short and long-term goals?
10. Give an example of a time you had to use your fact-finding skills to gain information for solving a problem - then describe how you analyzed the information to arrive at a decision.
11. Describe the most important/significant presentation you have had to make?
12. Tell me about a time in which you had to use your spoken communication skills in order to get a point across that was important to you.
13. Tell me about a time when you had to share “bad” or “dire” news with a staff or faculty?
14. Give an example of a specific occasion in which you conformed to a policy with which you did not agree.
15. Tell me about the best boss you ever had.
16. Tell me about a recent mistake or failure and how you handled it.

Field-Specific Questions

1. Having read the position description and information about our programs, could you share with me how your background prepares you for this faculty position?
2. What is your philosophy about teaching and working with students?
3. Give me an example of your involvement/engagement with students?
4. Given your scholarly interests, what would be your major goals for your scholarship if you were to teach at (name of university)?
5. Could you share with me a typical day in your life? How do you balance your work-life?
6. What do you think are the major issues in field that potentially impact your teaching?
7. In what ways do you keep current in your field of interest?

Field-Specific Questions With Response Criteria

Question 1:

This is a two-part question: a) What do you see as some of the biggest challenges/issues facing students in meeting their educational goals today? b) Please give examples of efforts/approaches/strategies you have used or would use to help students overcome such barriers.

Response Criteria:

- Ability to identify barriers to success, i.e., child care, transportation, FA, support at home, lack of role models and lack of preparation prior to entrance
- A philosophy and plan of action to include assessment, orientation, tutoring and appropriate counseling
- Identification of programs which support student needs
- Knowledge of state and federal programs for support

Question 2:

This position requires evidence of sensitivity to and an understanding of the diverse backgrounds of our college student population, including their academic abilities, socioeconomic status, cultural affiliations, disabilities, gender, and ethnic backgrounds. Please provide an example of how you have handled student diversity issues, and explain how you intend to address diversity issues in this position.

Response Criteria:

- Incorporates a multi-ethnic perspective
- Has own experience with diversity

- Shows that he/she has worked and/or has an awareness of people of many different cultures, the knowledge of laws and rules, and acknowledgement of traditions

Question 3:

This position is an integral position when it comes to college planning. Please give examples of your experience working with key student support service functions, such as strategic planning and evaluation, program review, accreditation, and the development and assessment of student learning outcomes/service unit outcomes (SLOs/SUOs).

Response Criteria:

- Describes knowledge of student services planning and evaluation such as accreditation standards, SLOs/SUOs, and experience participating in program review and accreditation effort
- Reflects an ability to coordinate with staff in all employee categories: Instruction, Administrative Services, and Student Services

Question 4:

You have a manager/Dean who has not followed the union contract when working with classified employees, to the extent that the employees have filed several grievances against this manager/Dean. The contract has an established procedure to handle the grievances. What would you do to ensure that this manager/Dean understands the importance of adhering to the contract and treating classified employees with respect?

Response Criteria:

- A clear understanding of classified rights and of the classified contract
- Examples of leadership and interpersonal skills in dealing with both the employees and the manager
- Union experience

Question 5:

Student Support Services is being challenged to serve students in new ways due to resource scarcity, new technology and evolving student needs. Please describe how you can facilitate this change while balancing tradition and innovation.

Response Criteria:

- Describe ways for dealing with traditionalists while not “turning off” the more progressive element
- Show evidence of leadership and management style

Sample Education Administration Interview Questions

1. What experiences have you had that qualify you for this position?
2. Tell us about a time that you had to give an impromptu speech.
3. Tell us about a time when you handle an emergency situation.
4. Tell us about a hard decision you made and why you made it. Was there anything you would have done differently?
5. Tell us about a program/initiative in which you were involved that affected student achievement.
6. Describe your personal leadership mission and vision.
7. How do you facilitate the development, articulation, implementation, and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared and supported by the school community?
8. What strategies do you use to advocate, nurture, and sustain a school culture and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth?
9. How do you manage resources in support of student learning to ensure equity, fairness, and social justice?
10. How do you collaborate with families and community members, respond to diverse community interests and needs, and mobilize community resources?
11. What is your personal code of ethics, and how do you develop personal and organizational leadership capacity?
12. How do you understand, respond to, and influence the larger political, social, economic, legal, and cultural context for your organization?
13. What reform do you believe is needed to improve the current system of schooling?
14. If you were working with several diverse groups of people, how would you cultivate cultural cohesion among these groups?