

**Stanford University
GRAD Diversity Day**

Potential Discussion Questions

Here is a list of conversation starters and discussion questions for your meetings during GRAD Diversity Day. The questions are meant as suggestions; feel free to use them to augment the discussion plans that you already have.

Questions for Faculty:

1. What are some of the projects graduate students are working on in your lab?
2. How would I go about joining your lab?
3. In addition to any required coursework, what classes do you like your students to take?
4. What is your research, advising, and mentoring style?
5. How many students are on your current research team? How many will graduate by the end of the year?
6. How often do you meet with students to discuss their project?
7. How often do you have lab meetings?
8. Which outside fellowships do you encourage your students to apply for?
9. How much do your students collaborate with other Stanford faculty and faculty at other universities?
10. How many/what kind of conferences do students attend?
11. Do you require a certain number of first-author publications in your lab prior to graduating? What is the average time that it takes your students to publish in your lab? How do you decide who is the second or third author?
12. How did you make your decision to come to Stanford?
13. What are Stanford's strengths compared to other universities?
14. What is the most important thing you think I should consider when making my decision about where to attend graduate school?
15. Where are you placing your Ph.D. graduates?

Questions for Diversity Officers and Program Administrators:

1. How much is the stipend and does it provide enough support? Is it taxed?
2. Can you be exempted from some courses if you've had them already?
3. What is the average time to graduation in your department? In a particular lab?
4. Is there a departmental vacation policy? Does the particular lab that I am interested in have its own vacation policy?
5. Does Stanford cover dental and vision insurance?
6. Is there a family leave/maternity leave policy for graduate students?
7. What is the most important thing you think I should consider when making my decision about where to attend graduate school?
8. What student support groups or organizations exist at Stanford?
9. Is there a rotation program in the department or are students expected to make a firm decision and pick one research team?

Questions for Students:

1. What is your relationship like with your principal investigator?
2. How did you make your decision to come to Stanford?
3. What is the most important thing you think I should consider when making my decision about where to attend graduate school?
4. What's been your biggest success in your time as a graduate student?
Challenge?
5. What's the most positive aspect of your time here?
6. What do you think is the biggest strength/weakness of your department/program?
7. If you had to do it again, would you choose Stanford?
8. How much interaction do you have with students outside of your department?
9. What activities are you involved with outside of the lab?
10. Where do you live and how do you like it?
11. Do people go to SF/Oakland often? Is it very easy to maneuver between Palo Alto and other parts of the Bay Area?
12. What things are there to do around the bay area?
13. Are having activities outside of school encouraged?