

Physics Department Chair Interview Questions

1. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
2. Describe research you have conducted. How did you publish your findings?
3. Share an experience in which you effectively prepared and/or delivered a lecture to students. How about a time when you were less effective?
4. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.
5. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?
6. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What guidance and direction did you find most effective?
7. Describe an experience in which you identified the educational needs of your students and successfully developed a way to teach/train them.
8. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
9. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
10. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
11. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
12. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
13. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?

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14. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.

15. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?

16. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?

17. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

18. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

19. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?

20. Share an experience in which you used new training skills, ideas, or a method to adapt to a new situation or improve an ongoing one. (Look for the candidate's ability to learn.)

21. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.

22. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?

23. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.

24. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?

25. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)

26. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

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27. Share an experience in which your ability to consider the costs or benefits of a potential action helped you choose the most appropriate action.

28. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

29. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

30. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.

31. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

32. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

33. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?

34. Share an experience in which you supervised students' laboratory work. What methods made you successful?

35. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

36. What factors do you consider when preparing course materials?

37. Provide an effective method you have used to keep abreast of developments in your field.

38. Provide an effective method you have used to procure external research funding.

39. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.

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40. Share an experience in which you successfully supervised teaching, internship, and/or research work. What methods made you successful?
41. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)
42. Share an experience in which collaborating with colleagues helped you to address a difficult issue.
43. Share an effective method you have used to evaluate and grade students' work.
44. Describe how you plan, evaluate, and revise curricula, course content, materials, and/or methods of instruction. Share an experience.
45. What is the state of your student records? What is one thing you would like to improve upon?
46. Describe an examination you administered which was effective. How about one which was not as effective?
47. Share an experience in which your regular office hours helped you in assisting your students.
48. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
49. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?
50. Provide an effective method you have used to initiate and facilitate classroom discussions. Share an experience.
51. What is the most challenging part of budgeting for you?
52. Share an effective method you have used to advise students on curricula and career issues.

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53. What factors do you consider when selecting class materials and supplies?
54. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)
55. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.
56. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
57. Share an experience in which your participation in student recruitment, registration, and/or placement activities benefited your school.
58. Describe your experience serving on academic and/or administrative committees. How did your service benefit your school?
59. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?
60. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?
61. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
62. Describe an experience in which you performed administrative duties, e.g. serving as department head.
63. Provide an effective method you have used to maintain laboratory equipment.
64. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?
65. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to

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determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)
66. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
67. Share an experience in which you successfully acted as an adviser to a student organization.
68. Provide an effective method you have used to compile bibliographies for outside reading assignments.
69. Describe a time when you successfully persuaded another person to change his/her way of thinking or behavior.
70. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the work of someone else. How did you effectively motivate, develop, and direct the worker(s)?
71. Provide an experience in which your ability to actively find ways to help people improved your company or your own work ethic.
72. Share an experience in which you provided professional consulting services.
73. Describe a time when you successfully serviced, repaired, calibrated, or tested a device that operates mainly by electronic principles.
74. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)
75. Tell me about your last experience recruiting, interviewing, or hiring an employee. What techniques did you find most effective in finding the right person for the job?
76. Tell me about a time when your ability to analyze needs and product requirements helped you create an effective design or make an informed decision to benefit your company.