Questions to help prospective students evaluate program fit

| To ask everyone | • What makes this graduate program unique from other graduate programs in community psychology?  
|                 |   o How is the training here different from other community psychology programs? What is unique?  
|                 | • What would advising during my first year as a graduate student look like?  
|                 | • What type of mentorship model does your program use?  
|                 | • What are the key strengths of this graduate program?  
|                 |   o What are the strengths of the curriculum?  
|                 |   o What are the strengths of the faculty?  
|                 | • What are the core competencies that your program aims to provide to students?  
|                 |   o What key methodological competencies does the program aim to provide?  
|                 |   o What key theoretical competencies does the program aim to provide?  
|                 |   o What professional development skills does the program aim to provide?  
|                 | • How long do students typically receive funding?  
|                 | • What is your program’s placement record like? In what academic and practice settings do alumni receive jobs?  
|                 | • Are there current major initiatives or changes planned for your graduate program? What are they?  
|                 | • What is the climate of this program like in relation to supporting students of diverse identities?  
|                 | • What qualities describe a successful student?  
|                 | • What are the conferences that are particularly relevant for students in the program?  
|                 | • How do you use your work to engage in social justice issues?  
|                 | • What do you love about what you do?  

| To ask current graduate students | • What do you like the most about this graduate program?  
|                                |   o What do you like the least about this graduate program? (e.g., Curriculum? Mentorship model? Climate? Etc.)  
|                                | • What organizations or groups around campus have you found to be good supports?  
|                                | • Are there certain faculty members who you would recommend as an advisor?  
|                                | • Are there certain faculty members I should avoid selecting as an advisor?  
|                                | • Are there certain elective courses that you would recommend?  
|                                | • How much should I expect to pay for housing?  
|                                |   o What housing options are popular with students?  
|                                |   o What are costs I should expect to pay outside of rent?  

| To ask potential | • Can you describe your mentorship style?  
|                  |   o How do you typically work with students to help them meet major program milestones? (very hands off ↔ very involved)  

Last updated: 1/26/2018/26/18 10:33 AM
| Advisor | • How willing are you to advise students whose research interests may differ from your own?  
• How often do you typically meet with your graduate students?  
• How would you describe your mentoring process for publishing scholarly work?  
• What skills might I develop or strengthen by working with you?  
• How do you feel about students working with other faculty (within and outside the department?)  
• What is your preferred form of communication?  
• What is your research/teaching philosophy?  
• How many students are you currently advising?  
• How often have you graduated Ph.D. students? Where do the students that you’ve mentored typically work?  
• How often do students co-author papers with you?  
• Would you be willing to provide feedback on a CV draft?  
• What does your funding situation look like for the next few years?  
  □ Would I expect to have the opportunity to work on your research team?  
• Are you currently working on any career milestones? How might this impact your advising in the next 1-3 years?  
• What are your expectations for a workday?  
• How do you envision the ideal role of academia in the community?  
• What is your idea of work life balance?  

| Questions specific to first generation students and/or underrepresented identities | • Have you advised first generation students/students from underrepresented identities before?  
  □ If so, what were some of the things you learned? If not, what challenges do you anticipate?  
• How might your advising style shift when supporting first generation students? (Or other relevant identities)  
• Who has experience with first generation graduate students/graduate students from underrepresented identities in this program/dept that we could consult?  
• Do you know if there are currently first generation graduate students/graduate students from underrepresented identities in the program?  
• How might you support conference preparation for someone new to conferences?  
• How might you support CV preparation for someone new to academia?  

| Questions specific to international students | • Have you ever advised international students before?  
  □ If so, what were some of the things you learned? If not, what challenges do you anticipate?  
• Who should I contact with questions as I consider the program?  
• Who has experience with international graduate students in this program/dept that we could consult?  
• Are there other international students in the program currently?  
  □ If not, when was the last time there was an international student in the program?  
• What financial support differences are there for international students?  
  □ Am I eligible for the same types of funding support as domestic students?  

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