

## Research Statements (Steve Shirey & Lara Wagner)

Research statements should be no more than 2-3 pages long.

- Technical
- Intelligible to any member of the department you wish to join
- Maintain the big picture
- Readable
- Compelling
- Must fit into the goals of the department
- Clear
- Engaging
- Structured well; broken into paragraphs

Other important pieces of advice:

- Do not be overly ambitious or lack clear direction.
- Get the reviewers excited about your research. Tenure is based on your research; it brings in research money, so be fundable. This is crucial.
- Let them know you are working on a new aspect in your field, that your work is cutting edge.
- Cast a big umbrella but at the same time indicate specifically what you plan to pursue aggressively.
- Indicate how your research fits into the big picture.
- Use the word **why**. Why is your research important to you and to the field?
- Make sure you let others, both in and outside your field, read your research statement.
- Do you have your own ideas or are you doing what your advisor wants you to do? How much of the research is yours and how much of the research is that of your advisor?
- You have a 5-10 year timeframe before reaching tenure. Let them know what research you will be doing during that timeframe.
- **What** are you contributing to the big picture in the world of science? What is your vision for yourself?

Envision yourself 10 years from now. Where would you like to be? What would you need to make that happen? Know in advance what you want.

## Teaching Statements (Lara Wagner & Steve Shirey)

Search Committees usually consist of 5 or 6 people. They reduce a huge list of applicants to a short list. If you are not selected, do not take it personally. On occasion, you can end up being called back should the selected applicant accept another position elsewhere.

Make sure you indicate that you can be a good teacher, even if you have not had extensive teaching experience. You can also include your service to the department. Be sure and show your teaching statement to a staff scientist for review and comments.

- Do your homework.
- Check out the department's web site.
- Know the department and what their needs are.
- Show a high level of enthusiasm and let them know that you can do the job.
- List your TA experience

There are 3 teaching categories:

- 101 level classes
- classes for majors
- graduate level classes with ~ 5 students in the class

Smaller departments need good department citizens. Your willingness to each is an important service. This should be included in your CV.

Taylor teaching statements to the website of the school/department to which you are applying.

Find a way to integrate into the existing classes being offered.

If you do not have experience teaching, let them know that you love speaking in front of audiences. Recognize that speaking at classes is important to you.

Highlight the breadth of your knowledge. Even if you don't have teaching experience, indicate that you have a broad breadth of experience, but don't overstate anything in your teaching statement.

Be sensitive to the fact that another faculty member is teaching a particular class or subject, so try not to step on any toes if you state you want to teach a graduate level class that someone else is already teaching. Suggest you can help contribute to that class. Provide a range of topics you can teach.