

Spirituality in Higher Education Faculty Interview Protocol

Opening Statement:

Hello and thank you for coming today. My name is _____ and I am a researcher from the Graduate School of Education & Information Studies at UCLA [or other affiliation, as applicable].

As you know, this is a study about college students' beliefs and values. We are particularly interested in learning about college students' spiritual beliefs and their search for meaning and purpose during their undergraduate years. We are also interested in hearing faculty perspectives and related experiences. Please treat this as a discussion, with no right or wrong answers.

Before we begin, I want to share with you this information sheet on the research study and give you a few minutes to read it and confirm you are interested in participating. If you are, I'll ask you to sign two copies so that we can have a copy and you can take a copy with you.

I'm also going to reiterate a couple of key points from the information sheet.

1. You can share what you wish to share. If you would rather not respond to a particular question, that is fine. You can simply indicate so.

2. You are free to choose not to participate in all or any part of this study. At any time, you can excuse yourself without any consequences.

3. We are asking your permission to tape record the interview. When we transcribe the dialogue, we will insert pseudonyms for each of you. You also have the right to listen to these audiotapes before the research team members have erased them and request that specific information be edited or deleted from the study.

4. We have developed a project website that you can access if you are interested in following our progress on this study. The address is: www.spirituality.ucla.edu. I also brought you a copy of our project brochure.

After this information is conveyed, interviewer will wait while the faculty member reads and sign the consent form and returns one copy to us.

Interview Questions

1. What is your field?
2. What is your rank?
3. How long have you been at this institution?
4. Do you consider yourself a religious person?
5. If yes, what is your current religious affiliation? Is this the same religious you were brought up in? If not, what was that religion?

6. Do you attend church? If yes, how often?
7. Do you consider yourself a spiritual person?

[If yes:]

- a. In what ways is spirituality important to you?
- b. How has your spirituality changed over time?
- c. How do you nurture your spirituality?
- d. Do you have opportunities to discuss your faith/spiritual feelings/concerns with anyone on campus?
- e. Do you see your sense of spirituality connecting with aspects of your work? If so, in which aspects and how.

[If no:]

- a. How does your job as a faculty member fit in with the rest of your life? How integral is what you do as a researcher, teacher, and academic colleague to the goals, values, or standards that you set for yourself as a person? What meaning do you make of your career and lifestyle?
 - b. Is the meaning of your work related at all to a larger sense of meaning and purpose you have in your life?
8. How do you feel about dealing with/discussing questions of faith, spirituality, search for meaning and purpose with your students?
 9. Are there opportunities for such discussions?
 10. Are such discussions encouraged or discouraged on your campus?
 11. Do you feel that such discussions have a place on campus? Why or why not?
 12. What are some of your ideas about how colleges and universities can deal with/respond to students' existential dilemmas, questions of meaning and purpose, etc.?
 13. Are there any particular challenges at your institution that need to be addressed to foster your own and/or students' development in this area?