Questions to ask Potential Advisors

* What are the current projects in this lab, and in what directions do you expect the lab research to go over the next five years?
* To what extent can my interests as a student be incorporated into the broader interests of your lab, vs. how much would I be expected to carry out an existing line of research?
* How do students select research topics for their own dissertation, and what role do you play in this process?
* What is your mentoring style?
* What role are you looking for in a new graduate student?
* What opportunities are there to get involved in research collaborations with other labs? Are there many/any collaborations already between faculty?
* What are faculty/student relations like? What's the general climate of the clinical division and department (a good question to ask other graduate students).
* How many classes are typically offered to graduate students in (statistics, methods, therapeutic techniques, etc.) each semester/year?
* Are there opportunities for summer funding?
* What supports exist in the department for students wishing to write their own grants?
* What types of statistical consultation are available on campus?
* Is it possible and/or typical for students to work with more than one faculty member? How does this work?
* What type of jobs have graduating students from the program received in the past few years?
* How does one earn authorship in this lab?

Questions To Ask Graduate Students

* What is it like to work with the advisor that you are applying to work with (e.g., how

often does your advisor meet with you? Do you feel like your advisor is either

unavailable, or a micromanager?).

* Timeline questions (what are the expectations and norms for completion of various

program milestones - e.g., Master's, comps, dissertation, etc.)

* How competitive vs. cooperative are grad students in this program?
* Is funding guaranteed for the time I am here? For how long is it guaranteed?
* Is it possible to live comfortably on the stipend salary in this town?
* What areas are best for grad students to live?
* Is this an easy place to meet other people our age? If LGBTQ, what is the scene here for
* LGBTQ individuals? How supportive is the community? Vegan?
* To what extent does the training in this program focus on students' development as

researchers vs. teachers?

* What sorts of teaching opportunities exist here for graduate students? Is there training for

new teachers as part of the program?

http://www.unc.edu/~mjp1970/Mitch's%20Grad%20School%20Advice.pdf