

## Sample Interview Questions

These are taken (without explicit permission) from a handout prepared by Heather Lewis in the mid 1990s. The handout has advice for graduate students about to go on the academic job market, and has been copied and disseminated widely ever since. Heather based the handout on her successful job search upon graduating from UW-Madison. In her words, "I was primarily looking for a teaching position at a liberal arts college." These interview questions reflect her interest in that type of position.

### Questions they might ask you

- What type of school do you want to be at?
- Why do you want to be at a liberal arts school (after a place like Wisconsin)?
- Tell us about yourself/your research/your teaching.
- What do you know about *us*?
- Are there people near *us* in your area?
- Can you do research while teaching 12 credits?
- Can you continue your research program in an isolated place?
- If you could teach any course, what would it be?
- Which upper level courses have you taught?
- Have you used technology? How? What sorts of projects did you do?
- Have you used reform textbooks?
- What do you think of calculus reform?
- How can you involve students in your research?
- Is there anyone in *our* department you could do research with?

### Questions you might ask them

- What is the teaching load?
- What is the distribution of courses I'll be teaching each term?
- Are graders available?
- Is there summer teaching available? Will I ever be required to teach in summer?
- Are there any adjunct faculty?
- What is the math requirement for undergraduates? For math majors?
- How many math majors graduate each year?
- What is the lowest course you teach?
- What are the students like in general?
- How much autonomy will I have in teaching? Can I choose my own texts?
- Can I/ Must I use calculators?
- Will the department/university support me in Project NEXt?
- What is required for tenure?
- Has anyone been refused tenure? Why?
- Have junior faculty left? (Talk with junior faculty about what it was like to come into that dept./city/etc.)
- What are the strengths of the department?
- Where do you see the department going?
- How much travel money is available? How is it allocated?
- What is the sabbatical program? Is it competitive?
- Does the department have regular seminars or colloquia?
- Does the department have much contact with mathematicians at a nearby institution?
- Does the department have much contact with other departments? [on same campus]
- How is the computer support?
- What sorts of computers do faculty use?
- What sort of computer would I have?
- How is the access to my computer/files from home?
- Do faculty use TeX/LaTeX?
- Ask about moving expenses/salary/retirement/health insurance.
- Do I have to buy office furniture/computer out of my start-up money?