

Interview questions asked by employers – from some of our PhD alums –

Teaching Questions

Tell me about a day in your class.

How do you handle a classroom with students that don't belong in the class and students that already know the material?

This position expects people to have a background in X); can you teach a course in X? (where X is not in your expertise)

What courses would you like to teach?

Are there aspects of your teaching that you hope to change?

Describe one or more aspects of your teaching that you think will positively impact or strengthen student learning.

Are you comfortable with teaching a wide range of courses to various levels of students, including upper-level mathematics courses, as we regularly do?

Role play: You need to teach integration by parts to 200+ students. How do you start?

Research Questions

Tell me about your research.

What are some of the plans you have for your research? Are there any challenges, and if so, how do you plan on overcoming them?

Do you already have ideas on things that undergrads can do?

How do you plan on maintaining scholarly work?

For tenure/promotion, this position expects you to publish X many papers per Y many years in peer-reviewed journals. Can you do this?

Role play: A student walks into your office and asks "What do you do? What can you do in math?"

Service Questions

Describe a time when you took initiative.

What are some committees that you would like to serve on?

Do you have any ideas on how you can serve in the community?

General Questions

WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK HERE?***** Most important question!

What is a liberal arts school to you?

What is your definition of a good colleague?

Would you prefer being at a state school or a private school?

What is your idea of an ideal institution?

What is the type of work environment that you seek, and how do we fit into that?

Tell me your story of how you got to where you are now

How do you help increase diversity through your teaching?

Diversity is a big concern of ours. How do you aim to help?

Is there anything you would like to highlight from your application, or anything that you would like to tell us about yourself that isn't in your application?