



Finding your place at a liberal arts college

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Life at a liberal art college

- Liberal arts colleges “sell” **accessible faculty** (to students and parents)
 - Students will take a lot of your time.
 - Many colleagues do the bulk of their research on breaks.
 - This might be a great fit for you, if...
- You will likely be in a dept. w/o others in your field
 - Be prepared to travel for collaborations or look for overlapping research interests.
- Teaching load often 2 to 3 courses/term.
 - Class size ~ 10 to 30

Applying: Cover Letter

- *Make it clear that you know something about liberal arts colleges*
- Highlight any teaching awards or unusual experiences.
- Mention any faculty whose research might align with yours.
- Address all requests/questions posed in the job announcement.

Teaching Statement

- We look for people who think/care deeply about teaching.
- Highlight innovative techniques you've tried (or things you would like to try)
- Demonstrate how you solved a problem/overcame a difficulty in teaching.

Diversity Statement

- How might you contribute to the school's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion?
- Discuss ways in which you make your classroom inclusive.
- Have you been a part of any programs for under-represented students?
- Check out NAM - the National Association of Mathematicians: nam-math.org

Letters of Recommendation:

- Have your letter-writers visit your class.
 - Ask for feedback afterward.
 - We'd like them to address your teaching with details and concrete examples.
- Have *more than one* writer address teaching.
- Have (at least) one writer address research potential.

Research Statement:

- Give a compelling introduction readable by non-experts.
- Since you might be isolated in your field, show that you have a plan for sustainable future work.

Other things we'd like to know about you:

- Can you include undergraduates in your research? We love that!
- Tell us about your interest in or experience with undergraduate research & potential projects
- Do you have other interests or connections with other departments (double undergrad major, perhaps)?
- Many schools have writing-across-the-curriculum courses.

The interview

- Make your job talk **accessible!**
 - All of it (if possible)!
 - To undergraduates (and not just the seniors)!
 - It need not contain all of your cutting-edge research.
- You might teach a class. It's important.
 - Including something interactive or collaborative is a plus.
- Be ready to explain your research to people (including the president) outside of the math dept.

(the elephant in the room)

re: US liberal arts colleges

- Times are tough financially for many high \$ liberal arts colleges
- Statistics & data science are in high demand
- Well, they're in the US