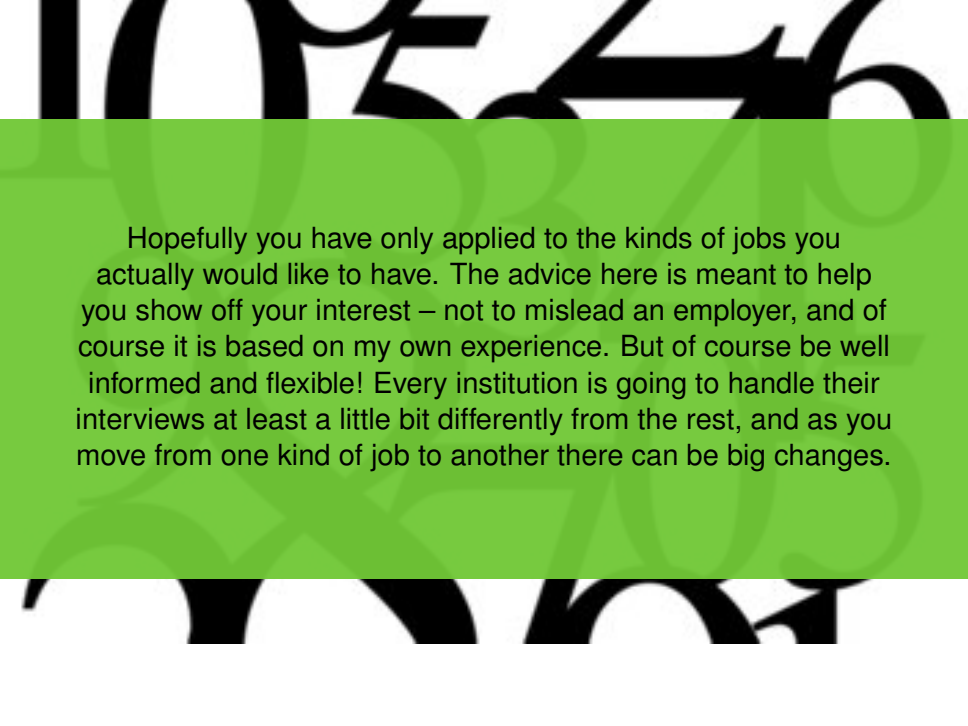


Interviewing for a job in academia

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The background of the slide features large, black, stylized numbers '10546' that are partially obscured by a solid green horizontal band. The green band is positioned in the center of the slide and contains a block of white text.

Hopefully you have only applied to the kinds of jobs you actually would like to have. The advice here is meant to help you show off your interest – not to mislead an employer, and of course it is based on my own experience. But of course be well informed and flexible! Every institution is going to handle their interviews at least a little bit differently from the rest, and as you move from one kind of job to another there can be big changes.



The background of the slide features a green gradient. At the top, there is a row of 3D-rendered numbers (0-9) in a light gray color. The main body of the slide is a solid green color with faint, larger, and more numerous 3D numbers scattered throughout, creating a textured, mathematical feel.

Here I will go over:

- What to expect;
- What you may be asked; and
- How to prepare.




EXPECT

- 
- a 1-2 day interview;
 - 30 minute meetings with everyone from undergraduates to deans from early morning until after dinner;
 - to give a one hour talk for non-experts;
 - to be exhausted!
- 



20 QUESTIONS

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of large, stylized, black numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0) with decorative swirls. A solid green horizontal band is positioned in the center of the slide.

(1) Describe your research.

You will need to prepare:

- a short answer for non-experts, and people in hallways and on elevators (think “Jaws on paws” (Cujo));
 - a medium description for the general math consumer;
- more detail for the people who have the time.

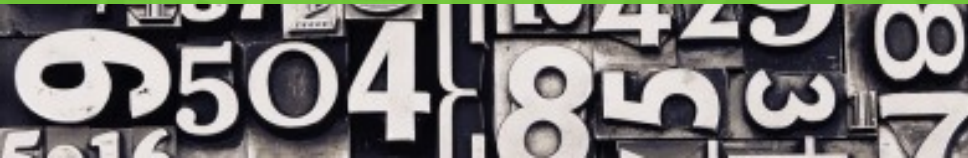
The background of the slide is a light gray surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers (0-9) in various sizes and orientations, creating a textured, mathematical effect. A solid green horizontal band is positioned across the middle of the slide, containing the text.

(2) Your basic teaching philosophy is...?

- you should have short, medium, and long answers for this question as well;
 - this may depend on the job (liberal arts college, state school with heavy teaching load, PhD granting institution).



- (3) How has your research influenced your teaching?
- (4) In what ways have you been able to bring the insights of your research to your courses at the undergraduate level?

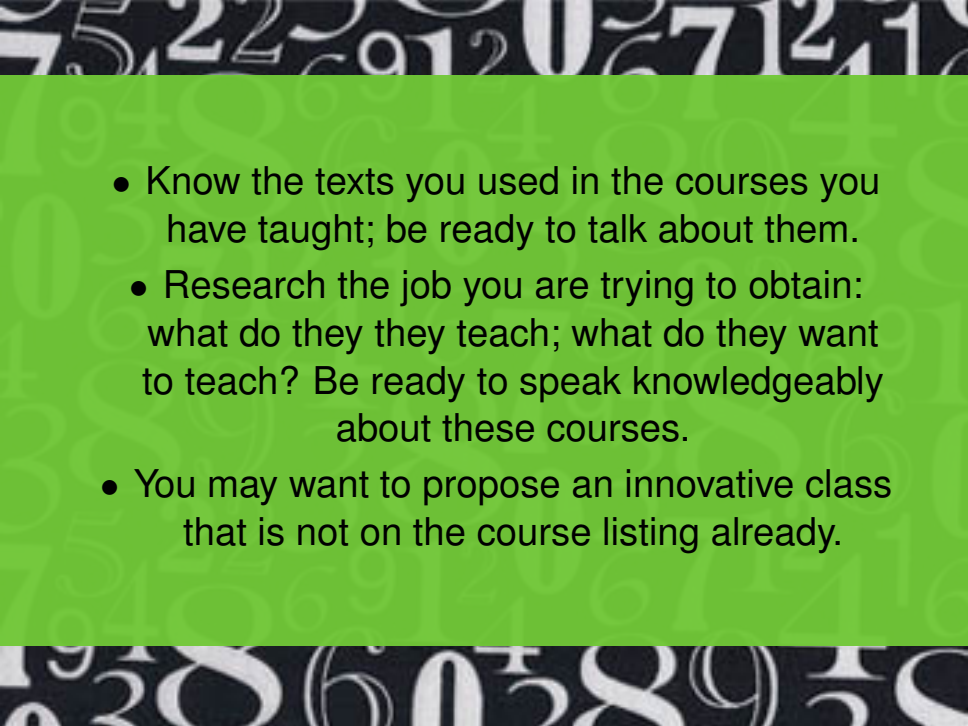


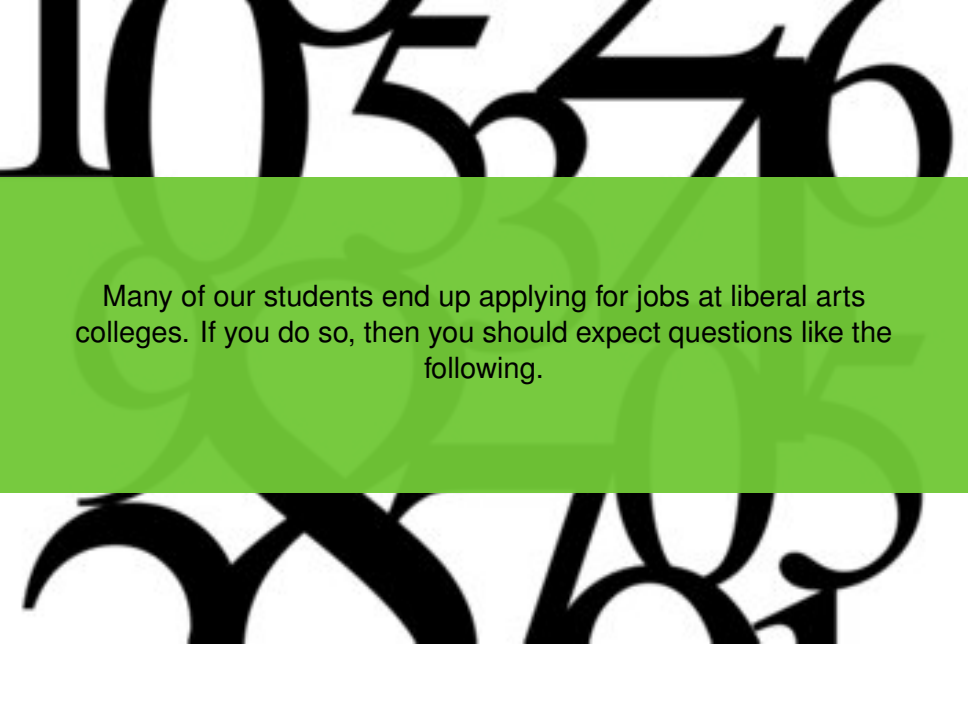
A large, solid green circle is centered on the page. The background is black with a dense, repeating pattern of white numbers (0-9) in various sizes and orientations, creating a noisy, digital effect.

COME PREPARED WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES.

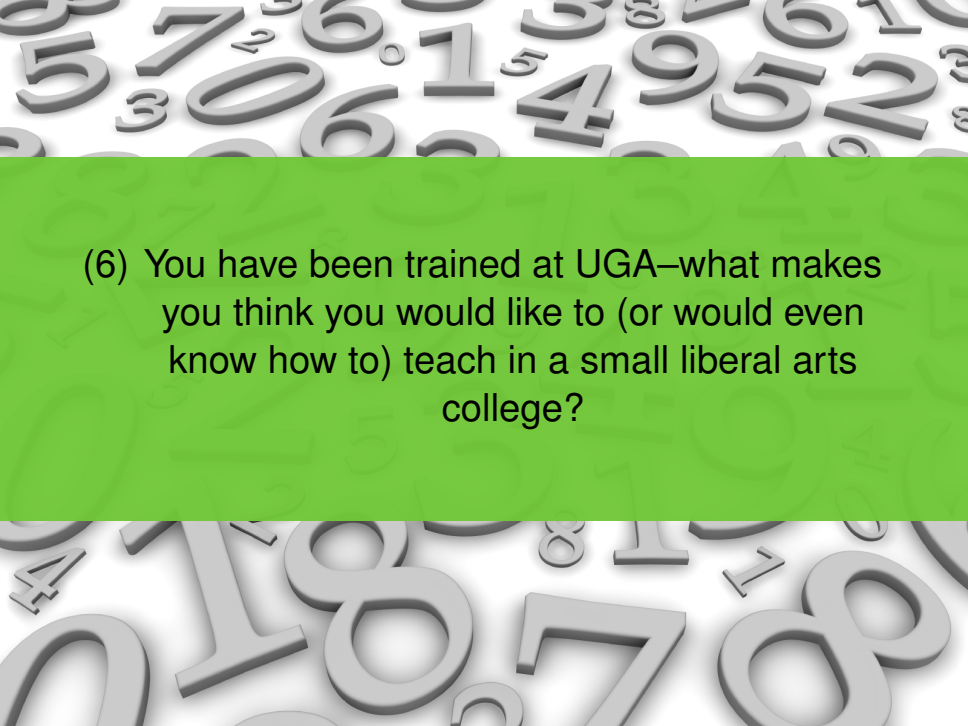
(5) How would you teach:

- Any course listed on your CV?
- Your dream course, if given the opportunity?
- A specific standard course like calculus?

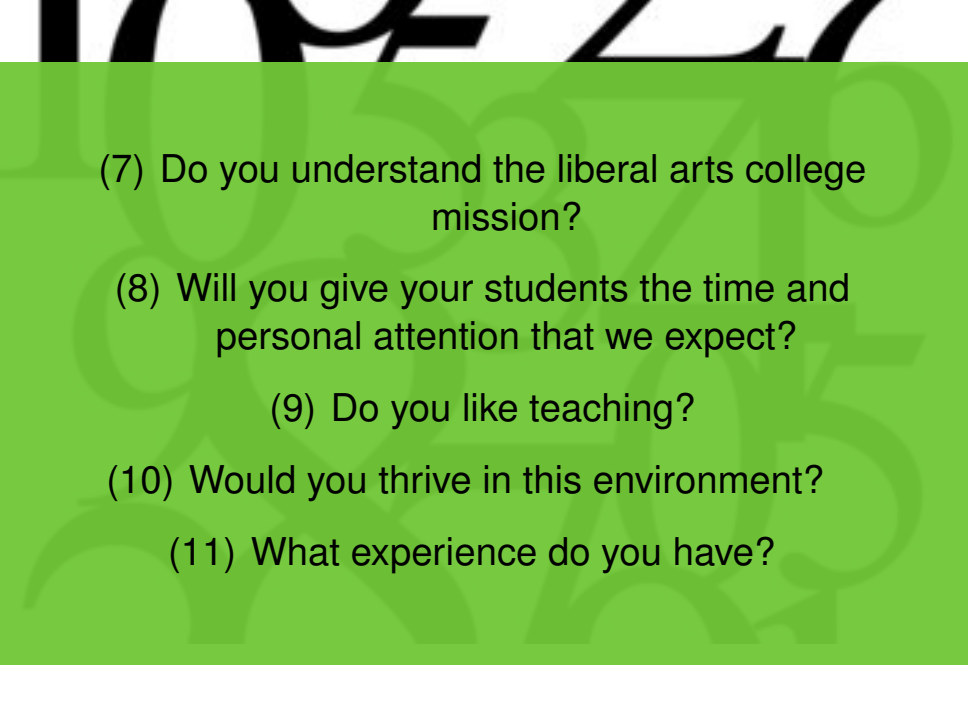
- 
- Know the texts you used in the courses you have taught; be ready to talk about them.
 - Research the job you are trying to obtain: what do they they teach; what do they want to teach? Be ready to speak knowledgeably about these courses.
 - You may want to propose an innovative class that is not on the course listing already.

The background of the slide features large, bold, black numbers (10, 5, 4, 6) at the top and bottom. A solid green horizontal band spans the middle of the slide, containing the text.

Many of our students end up applying for jobs at liberal arts colleges. If you do so, then you should expect questions like the following.

The background of the slide is a light gray surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers in various sizes and orientations. Some numbers are clearly visible, such as '5', '7', '6', '1', '4', '9', '5', '2' in the top section, and '4', '1', '8', '7', '8' in the bottom section. The numbers have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

(6) You have been trained at UGA—what makes you think you would like to (or would even know how to) teach in a small liberal arts college?



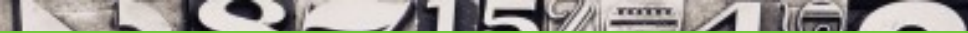
(7) Do you understand the liberal arts college mission?

(8) Will you give your students the time and personal attention that we expect?

(9) Do you like teaching?

(10) Would you thrive in this environment?

(11) What experience do you have?

A decorative header at the top of the slide featuring a row of numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0) and various mathematical symbols like plus, minus, multiply, divide, and percent, all in a light green color against a dark background.

You may have to fight against stereotypes people have about what it is like to be trained at a research school. Inform them about *your* experience at UGA. Tell them about:

- our small class sizes;
- our teacher training program (which you should be affiliated with);
- Our VIGRE and RTG grants (and all the activities that we do for students).



(12) What are some ideas you have for research projects with undergraduates?



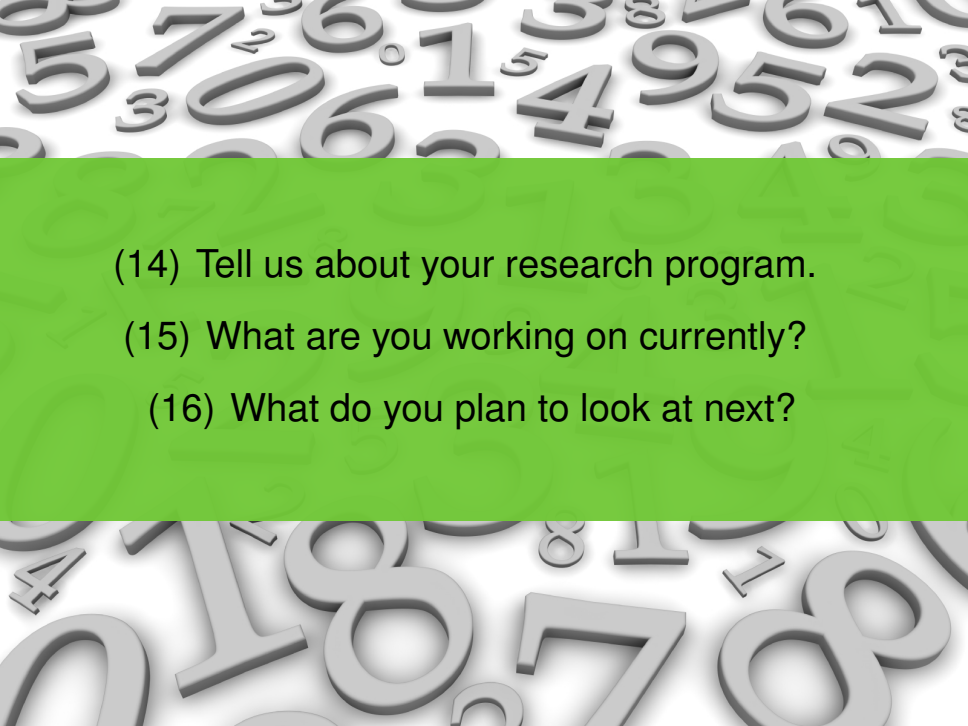


Come prepared for this one!



The background of the slide is a dark grey or black color, featuring a dense, overlapping pattern of white numbers. The numbers are in various fonts, sizes, and orientations, creating a complex, abstract texture. Some numbers are large and prominent, while others are smaller and partially obscured. The numbers include digits from 0 to 9, as well as some mathematical symbols like fractions (e.g., 1/2, 1/6) and superscripts (e.g., 2^2, 1^2).

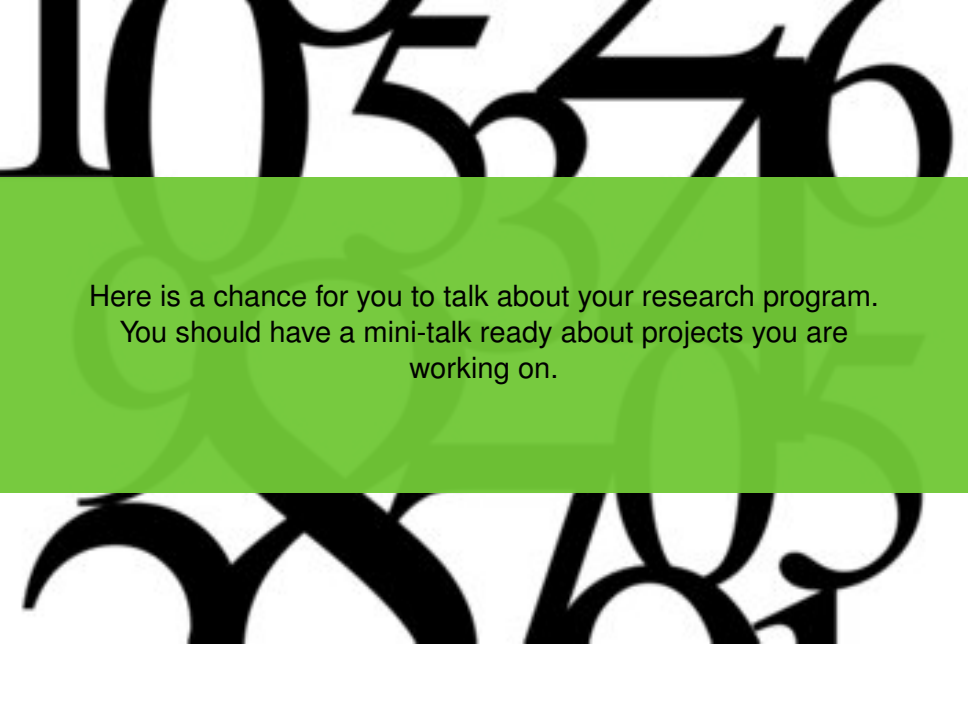
(13) What is your favorite theorem?

The background of the slide is a white surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers in various sizes and orientations. A solid green rectangular box is positioned in the center of the slide, containing three lines of text.

(14) Tell us about your research program.

(15) What are you working on currently?

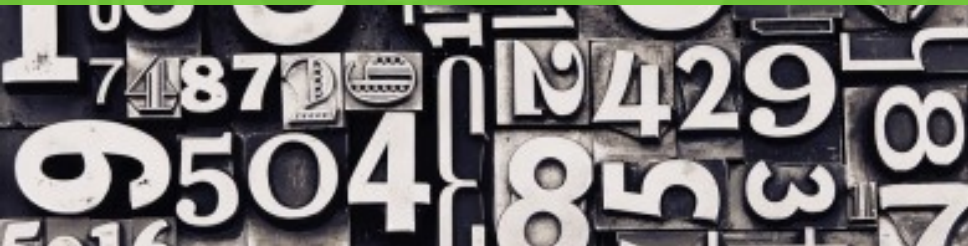
(16) What do you plan to look at next?

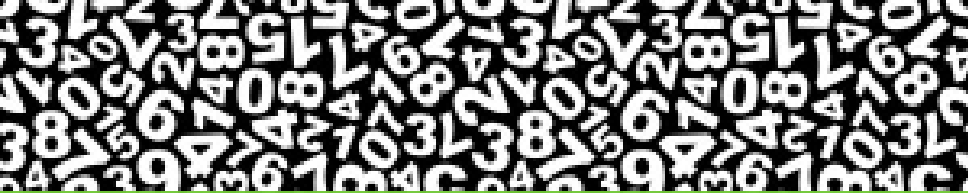
The background features large, stylized black numbers (10, 5, 4, 6, 3, 2) on a white field. A solid green horizontal band spans the middle of the image, containing white text.

Here is a chance for you to talk about your research program.
You should have a mini-talk ready about projects you are
working on.



(17) Who on the faculty, or at nearby schools, will you talk math with?





Make sure you do your research and know who is on the faculty
and who is nearby.





(18) How do you feel about living in this part of the country?

(19) Could you live in this size of city or town?



Be informed! Show off your interest! Give details about what attracts you, why it would be a good fit, what appeals to you. Show them you know about their part of the country and their city or town. *Your answer to this question could be a deal breaker for many people on the faculty.*

The background of the slide is a white surface covered with numerous 3D-rendered numbers (0-9) in a light gray color. The numbers are scattered across the top and bottom sections, with some appearing larger and more prominent than others, creating a textured, mathematical effect.

(20) Do you have any questions?

The background features large, bold, black numbers (1, 0, 5, 4, 6) in a stylized font. A solid green horizontal band runs across the middle of the image. The text "THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!" is centered within this band.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT!



20 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK:

A decorative header strip at the top of the slide featuring a collage of numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0) and mathematical symbols (%, \$, &).

**To the search committee chair, or to your advocate, or
your handler that day:**

- Tell me about the agenda today;
- What is the department looking for?
- Are there any surprises or issues I should be aware of or on the lookout for?

To the dean:

- What do you think about the department's trajectory?
- Are there plans for hiring in the math department in the near future?
- What are tenure and promotion expectations and procedures like?

To the department chair or senior faculty:

- What is the department looking for?
- What are tenure and promotion expectations and procedures like?
- Are there plans for hiring in the math department in the near future?
 - If they are research active (check their webpage, the arxiv, mathscinet), ask them about their work.

To junior faculty: ask the same questions as to the senior faculty *and*:

- How much choice do you have when it comes to: what you teach, how many preps, what days of the week you teach?
- What research support do you receive?
 - What bugs you most about your job?
 - What do you love about it?

The background of the slide features a solid green horizontal band across the middle. Above and below this band, there are 3D-rendered numbers in a light gray color, scattered across the white background. The numbers vary in size and orientation, creating a textured, mathematical feel.

To graduate students:

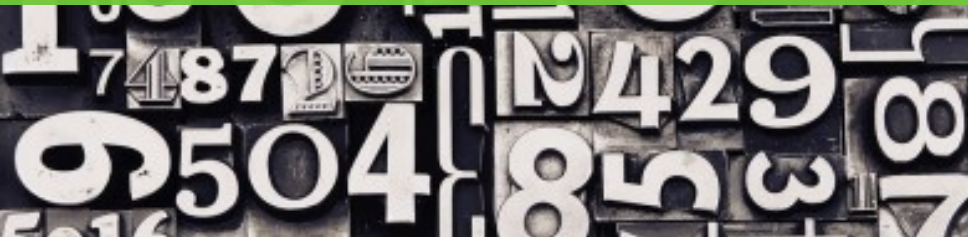
- What are you working on?
- What made you choose this department?
 - What research support do you receive?


To undergraduate students (if an undergraduate is interviewing you, then this is important):

- What made you choose this school?
 - What makes this school different?
- How were you chosen to be an interviewer?
- What are you looking for in a new professor?

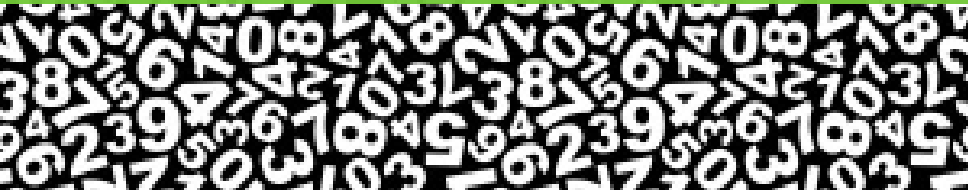


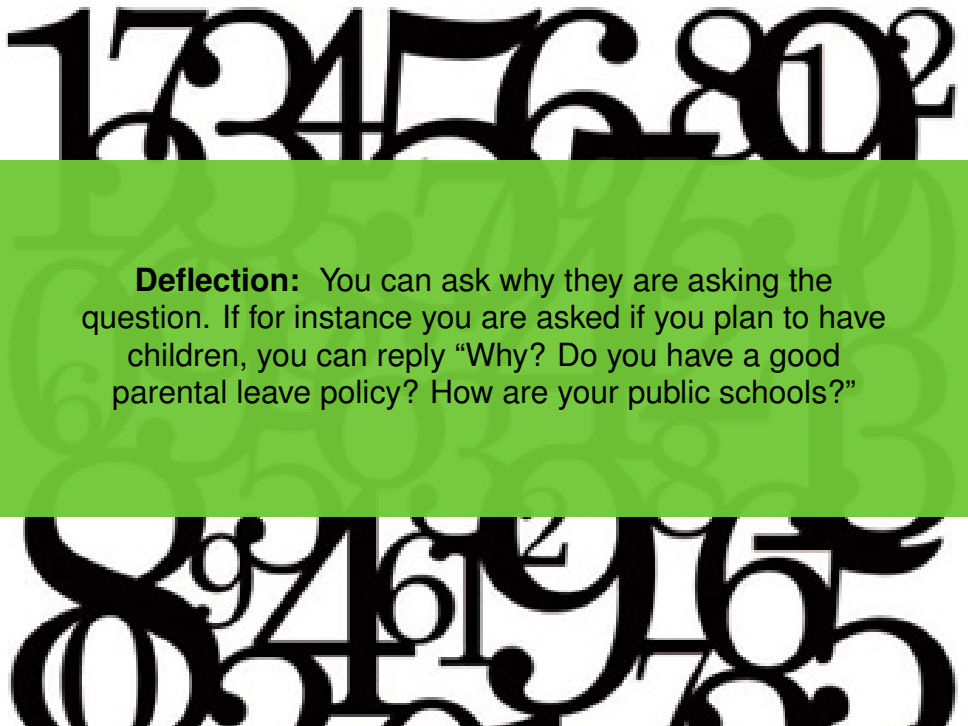
Dealing with “illegal” or uncomfortable questions;
options and strategies:





Consider answering anyway. For example, if you're asked by your advocate if you have a two-body problem and accepting a position is contingent on two offers, you may decide to give them the information they need to get another offer in place.

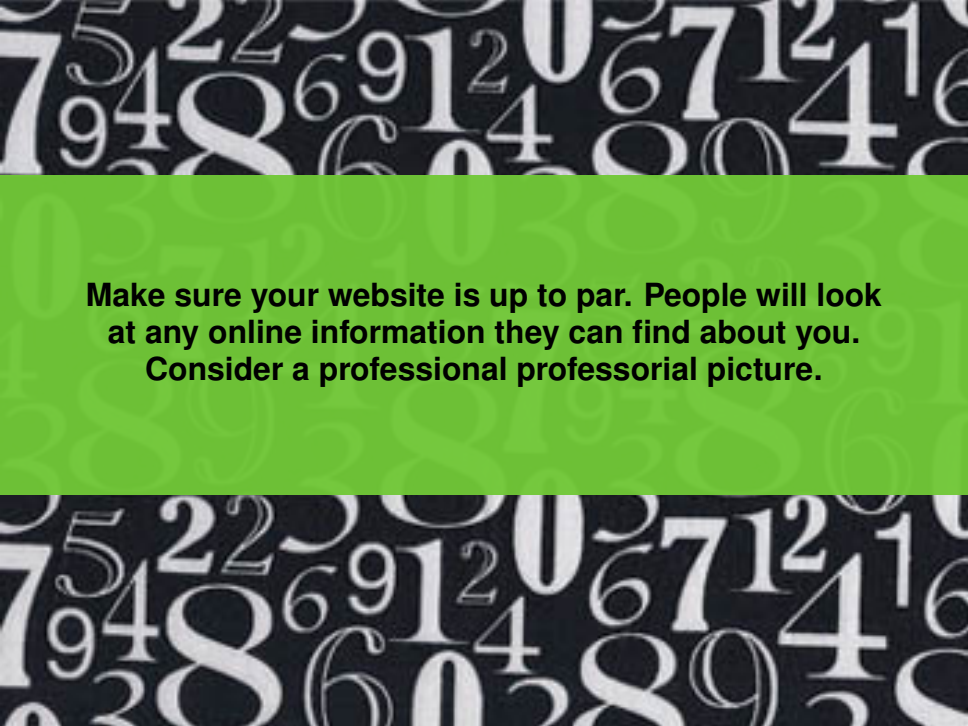





Deflection: You can ask why they are asking the question. If for instance you are asked if you plan to have children, you can reply “Why? Do you have a good parental leave policy? How are your public schools?”

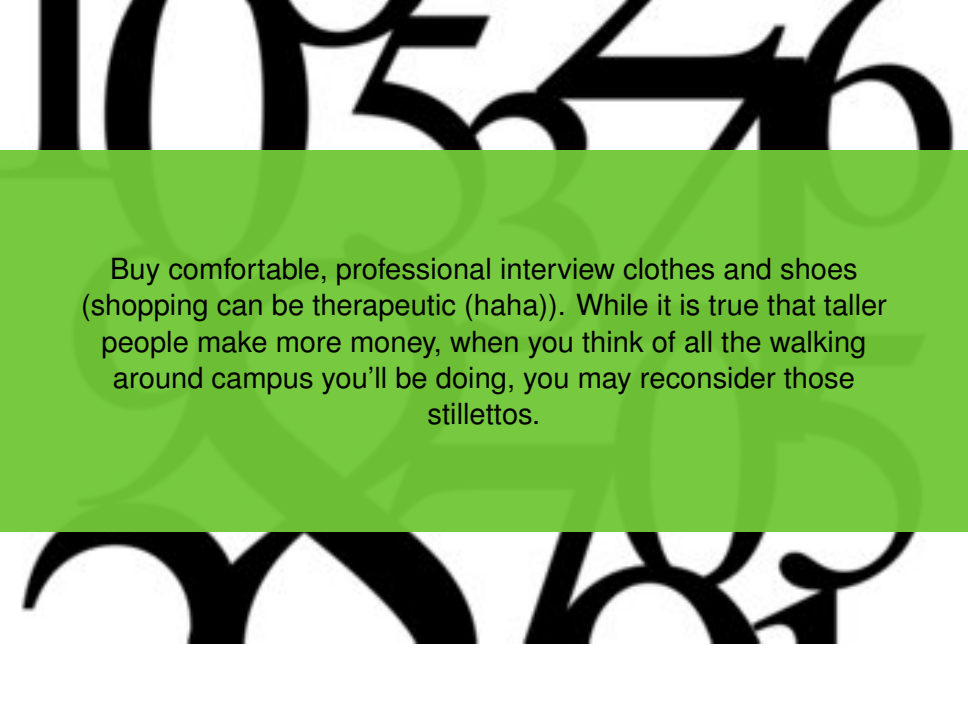


HOW TO PREPARE

The image features a decorative background with a dark grey or black field filled with white, stylized numbers of various sizes and fonts. A solid green horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, containing the text.

Make sure your website is up to par. People will look at any online information they can find about you. Consider a professional professorial picture.

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- The top of the slide features a decorative header. At the very top, a row of 3D-style numbers (0-9) is visible, appearing to be part of a larger sequence. Below this, a solid green horizontal band spans the width of the slide. The background of the slide is a light green color with a subtle, repeating pattern of faint, larger numbers.
- Research the school, the department, the faculty, the town, the region of the country.
 - Answer these questions long before you get to the interview (some you can work on before you get any interviews).
 - Prepare and practice your job talk.



Buy comfortable, professional interview clothes and shoes (shopping can be therapeutic (haha)). While it is true that taller people make more money, when you think of all the walking around campus you'll be doing, you may reconsider those stilettos.

A decorative border at the top and bottom of the slide features a collage of various numbers, symbols, and characters in different fonts and sizes, including 'N', '8', '7', '15', 'Z', '4', '9', '0', '5', '16', '10', and 'V'.

At the interview:

- Be alert, look people in the eye, answer questions directly, and with interest.
- Show good manners and collegiality.



Try to have a good time and enjoy yourself if you can.





GOOD LUCK!