

MGSA CV Workshop

Josh Swanson, University of Southern California, 10/23/2024

1. Overview

- Most math jobs have too many qualified applicants. Don't give them an excuse to toss your application, but also accept that you should have backup plans. Whether or not you use `mathsc` for headings will not be the deciding factor.
- At the end of the day, a large fraction of positions are given to people through personal connections. Somebody needs to advocate for you, which is more likely if they know you. Much of the process is random: which institutions have openings, what are they looking for this year, did you have an exciting project work out early on. But your application materials, at least, are entirely within your control.
- Exact details vary depending on geography and type of position. *Always* have somebody with appropriate expertise (e.g. your advisor + somebody at a different institution) take a look and provide feedback.

2. CV standard template

- Contact info (include website link)
- Research interests
- Academic positions and education (reverse chronological order, include PhD advisor and thesis title)
- Honors and awards (don't reach, e.g. nothing from high school unless it's amazing)
- Publications (clear distinction between published, submitted, and in preparation; arXiv links for the first two)
- Invited talks (making your own informal graduate seminar doesn't count)
- Teaching (courses taught/TA'd; math-related mentorship like teaching in a prison or for children)
- Service (seminar/conference organization, refereeing, committee work, etc.)
- Citizenship
- Date

3. Further perspectives

- [MathOverflow CV General](#)
- [MathOverflow CV What to Include](#)
- [Lauren Williams Job Search Advice](#)
- [Christian Gaetz CV](#)
- <https://www.jpswanson.org/>
- <https://www.jpswanson.org/CV/CV.pdf>