

# You Always Wanted to be a Math Teacher... Now What?

Ten (or More) Professional Activities for  
Mathematics Teaching Faculty (of All Ages!)

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# Abstract:

- After landing their dream job, new teachers may ask, “Now What?”
- Or, after 28 years, veteran teachers may ask, “Now What?”
- This talk will present 10 (or more) professional growth opportunities for Mathematics Teaching Faculty.
- These opportunities span a wide spectrum of teaching experience level, so all attendees can benefit! [J](#)

# Why Discuss Professional Activities/Development?

- The goal of mathematics professional development is to improve instruction in order to improve student learning ....Professional development is effective when it promotes teachers' growth.

**NCTM:** *Professional Standards for*

*Teaching Mathematics, 1991, 2000,...*

# Why Discuss Professional Activities/Development?

- Building expertise and exhibiting leadership in the teaching and learning of mathematics, enhancing personal growth, and improving teaching methods and effectiveness as a personally initiated life-long responsibility.

**AMATYC:** *Core Values, 2006*

# Why Discuss Professional Activities/Development?

- Departments should provide regular opportunities for and support the professional development of faculty members to **learn of the most recent findings about teaching and learning** in the mathematical sciences and of the most recent developments in technology that **support teaching and learning**.

**MAA:** *Guidelines for Programs and Departments in Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences, 1993*

# Presentation Disclaimer

- This talk is like an all can eat buffet—you can't eat everything!
- This talk is also a microcosm of an AMATYC conference—you can't attend/do everything!
- This talk is also likely to elicit some heavy *eyerolling* among the more “seasoned” attendees.
- Hopefully this talk will spark at least one good idea! ↓

# 1. Preserve your health and well-being (Regardless of numbers 2-10!).

- Preserve your wellness—both physical and mental.
- Preserve time for family, friends, recreation....
- Learn to balance work and home.
- Learn to say “No” when your plate is full. ↓

## 2. Participate in teaching-improvement opportunities.

- Observe another teacher within your department.
- Discuss teaching ideas with colleagues.
- Participate in faculty development day or other local opportunities.
- Take courses that are teacher/learner centered.
- Always look to adopt one good idea! J



### 3. Participate in activities that increase your mathematics expertise.

- Sit in on classes that stretch your knowledge.
- Discuss math concepts with colleagues—use the whiteboard in the break room.
- Solve problems in professional organization publications, e.g. NCTM Calendar, AMATYC Student Math league, MAA team competitions, etc.
- Take a course that challenges you—preferably with colleagues, e.g. Combinatorics! [J](#)

## 4. Learn how things work at your school.

- Read everything on your school's website.
- Participate in faculty senate or union activities.
- Attend all the required *boring* meetings.
- Ask good questions.
- Get involved in committees that interest you—but not too many! ┘

## 5. Get involved in your community.

- Follow your interests.
- Support and participate in spouse/kids' activities.
- Make yourself known to the math teachers at the local high school(s).
- Volunteer for community events such as science fairs, fund raisers, etc....
- But remember #1: Preserve health and well being! ↓

## 6. Pursue an advanced degree.

- If possible, use coursework for promotion.
- Explore research in mathematics.
- Explore research in mathematics education.
- Explore education leadership or administration.
- Take advantage of online options and opportunities. [J](#)

# 7. Pursue leadership roles at the college.

- Look for leadership roles within the department, e.g. coordinator roles.
- Run for program manager or department chair.
- Volunteer to chair a committee that interests you.
- Serve as a chair for an accreditation committee.
- Leadership can be frustrating, but very rewarding! [J](#)

# 8. Participate in professional organizations.

- Actually pay the annual dues!
- Start local...for example...FTYCMA...
- I have membership forms!
- Run for office—organizations always need fresh ideas and leadership.
- It is a great way to learn new ideas.
- It is a great way to realize you are not alone in your problems! ↓

## 9. Preside and/or present at conferences.

- Presiding is a great way to participate at a conference.
- Presiding may get you to attend a session you normally might not attend.
- Presenting forces you to focus on a topic at a much deeper level.
- Presenting is a great way to learn from your audience! [J](#)

# 10. Get involved in publishing.

- Talk to the publisher representatives that visit your college.
- Share your thoughts about the materials you are using.
- Put your name in to perform reviews.
- Put your name in to participate in focus groups.
- Participate in writing projects or authoring. [J](#)



# Or More....?

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# References



1. NCTM Principles and Standards: <http://www.nctm.org/Standards-and-Positions/Principles-and-Standards/>
2. AMATYC Core Values: <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=AMATYCVision>
3. MAA Guidelines for Programs and Departments in Undergraduate Mathematical Sciences: <https://www.maa.org/programs/faculty-and-departments>
4. NCTM Calendar Problems: <http://www.nctm.org/Publications/Mathematics-Teacher/>
5. AMATYC Student Math League: <http://www.amatyc.org/?page=SMLPastQuestions>
6. MAA Team Competitions: <http://sections.maa.org/northcen/teamcomp.html>
7. *Land of Confusion*, Genesis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKrsAje9lXg>
8. *I Can See Clearly Now*, Johnny Nash: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FscIgtDJFXg>

**THE END!**

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