

Yanxihao Chen

MATH 323

UTA Report: Navigating Mathematical Exploration in the Fall of 2023

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In the fall semester of 2023, I, Yanxihao Chen, had the privilege of serving as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (UTA) for Math 323 under the guidance of Instructor Sunhi Choi. This experience not only met but exceeded my initial expectations, leaving an indelible mark on my academic and personal growth.

My motivation to become a UTA stemmed from a passion for making the complexities of mathematics more accessible. Little did I anticipate the profound impact this role would have on my understanding of the subject matter and my overall development.

In my role as a UTA, I dedicated three hours each week to tutoring and holding office hours. Initially challenging, this responsibility evolved into a transformative experience, compelling me to deepen my understanding of the material to effectively communicate it to others. Teaching not only enhanced the learning experiences of those I taught but also became a vehicle for my own mastery of the subject.

An integral part of the UTA experience was the weekly seminar, where I refined my presentation skills and engaged in enriching discussions with fellow UTAs, under the mentorship of Instructor Sunhi Choi. These sessions exposed me to alternative teaching methods and provided

a platform for vibrant idea exchange. Constructive feedback from my peers following each presentation became a crucial element in identifying areas for improvement, fostering a continuous cycle of growth.

Grading homework assignments emerged as another pivotal responsibility. This process granted me valuable insights into students' thought processes, enabling me to identify common misconceptions and errors. This direct exposure to student work honed my ability to tailor teaching strategies to address specific challenges faced by the class.

The cumulative impact of these experiences significantly bolstered my confidence as an educator and presenter. To fellow undergraduates considering the UTA program, especially under the mentorship of Instructor Sunhi Choi, I wholeheartedly recommend it as a distinctive and transformative educational endeavor for the fall of 2023. The program not only offers a platform to share knowledge but also creates an environment conducive to continuous learning and self-improvement.