

## UTA Reflection Spring 2023

As a math major with an emphasis in education, I was highly interested in the UTA program when my professor recommended it to me. I felt it would be a way to practice some elements of being an educator. As a UTA I held office hours and review sessions, created worksheets, graded homework, and even taught a lesson. My mentor professor, along with the UTA Coordinators were very supportive and encouraging. Overall, I had a great experience and was able to get a taste of what it felt like on the other side of a classroom.

Being a UTA pushed me to look at math in a different way. As a student, I am the type to use the formulas given without question. However, this is not the case for many students; many people want or have to understand the reason behind the rules and formulas I was taking for granted. In order to better help the students in my section, I had to take a deeper dive into the math I had already learned. This led to me having a better understanding and higher engagement with the math taught in this course.

In addition to improving my capabilities with math, the UTA program has given me the chance to improve my sociability. I had to adjust to working with students I did not know very well and become a resource they felt comfortable using. I was also able to develop a professional relationship with the UTA Coordinators and my mentor professor. This program has definitely helped to bring me out of my comfort zone, which is especially good because of my goal to become an educator.

I would recommend this program to anyone wanting a career as an educator. Even if you are not looking to be an educator, if you want to build a deeper understanding of math and meaningful relationships with your peers and mentors, look into becoming a UTA.