



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
College of Science

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

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Mathematics Graduate Program At the University of Arizona



Photo by the University of Arizona

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About Our Department

Members of the department create, communicate, and apply mathematics of the highest caliber through activities such as internationally recognized research and graduate education, award winning undergraduate programs, and extensive outreach to local schools.

The department's faculty includes two Regents' Professors, three University Distinguished Professors, and numerous recipients of national and international awards. A large percentage of the faculty has been awarded grants and contracts from external funding agencies, with total awards averaging about \$2 million per year.

The department offers PhD, MS, and MA programs in Mathematics and Mathematics Education, and it provides major contributions to the Graduate Interdisciplinary Degree Programs in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. It also offers many postdoctoral opportunities for recent PhDs planning careers in research and education.

At the undergraduate level, the department provides more than 46,000 credit hours of instruction per year and offers its more than 600 majors and more than 800 minors unparalleled opportunities for research, tutoring experiences, and internships.

The department has a long and excellent tradition of outreach to schools in Tucson, ranging from programs supporting high school teachers to a research center focusing on improving the mathematics education of low-income Latino students.

Through the breadth and quality of its programs, the Department of Mathematics makes major contributions to the mission of the University of Arizona and to the quality of life in Tucson and beyond.

The central goal of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Arizona is to provide intellectual leadership in the mathematical sciences that is of direct benefit to the state and its citizens and commands national and international respect for its depth of scholarship.

Department Mission Statement

Specifically our goals are:

- to communicate the beauty, utility, and excitement of mathematics and to be at the frontiers of new discoveries;
- to prime the pipeline pump and prepare a broad and ethnically diverse spectrum of entering students, enabling them to meet the challenges of University programs whose quality will continue to climb;
- to build a first-rate, enthusiastic and vigorous faculty blending youth and maturity in a variety of overlapping fields across the broad spectrum of mathematical sciences with the dual aims that each individual is internationally recognized for the depth and originality of his or her contributions and that the collaborations lead to an environment in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts;
- not to do all things, but to do well those things we do;
- to provide flexible yet solid undergraduate and graduate programs which challenge the intellect, cater to the diverse interests of our majors and which complement, particularly at the graduate level, our internationally recognized Interdisciplinary Program in Applied Mathematics;
- to encourage and foster creativity and scholarship in their broadest possible interpretations;
- to encourage students in the belief that they gain most from the university experience by developing self-discipline, self-reliance and, under appropriately supervised conditions, by giving full rein to their own creativity;
- to embrace the notion that change such as is manifested in computer technology and educational reform can be beneficial, enhance learning and enrich the intellectual environment;
- to be a resource in the mathematical sciences for other disciplines whose own activities have an ever-increasing need for the power of mathematics;
- to work closely, not only with colleagues from other disciplines within the University, but also with colleagues from the local schools and community colleges who share the responsibility of ensuring the flow of a mathematically literate and confident generation of new Students;
- to be part of a University which aspires to be the best and which pursues policies compatible with this goal.

What Constitutes a Rigorous Undergraduate Mathematics Major

Here is a list of topics from various areas of mathematics that we believe describes a basis for a complete, rigorous undergraduate mathematics major. Students are generally expected to take similar courses or learn this material on their own. We have included this list so that students can see if their background meets these expectations, or if some of these courses will need to be taken prior to taking the graduate core courses as described in the next section. We strongly encourage each entering student to review (or learn) this material, using the references mentioned or other similar ones. Graduate coursework may assume this knowledge.

Students are expected to be able to solve challenging problems without guidance, rather than to just have seen the material or to solve it with aids such as Math Overflow or AI. We expect that students will know the definitions, the main examples and major theorems and how these fit together, and also that they can solve interesting problems using these concepts. You should be able to do basic problems from books with minimal help from external sources like AI or Math Overflow. In practice, it is enough to be able to re-learn these quickly as needed, but this is unlikely if your experience with these is not robust and exhaustive. Books have been suggested below.

At University of Arizona, this essentially consists of the content of the courses Math 413 (Linear Algebra), Math 415A (Introduction to Abstract Algebra), Math 415B (A Second Course in Abstract Algebra), Math 424 (Theory of Complex Variables), Math 425A (Real Analysis of One Variable), Math 425B (Real Analysis of Several Variables), Math 432 (Topological Spaces).

A. Linear Algebra

Essential requirements

1. Gaussian elimination ("row reduction") and applications to systems of equations, ranks.
2. Vector spaces and linear transformations, subspaces, basis, replacement theorem. Kernel and image of a linear transformation.
3. Basis of a vector space. The matrix of a linear transformation with respect to two bases. Change of basis relation to similar matrices.
4. Determinants, traces, characteristic polynomial.
5. Eigenvectors and eigenvalues. Canonical forms including Jordan form. Minimal polynomial. Two criterion of diagonalizability (1) dimension of eigenspaces = algebraic multiplicity (2) minimal polynomial has no repeated roots.
6. Euclidean spaces. Orthonormal bases and the Gram-Schmidt process, relation with QR decomposition. Orthogonal complement, orthogonal projection.
7. Self-adjoint operators and symmetric matrices. Spectral theorems, Singular Value Decomposition.

More advanced topics

1. Row rank equals column rank and relation to maximal invertible square submatrix
2. Direct sums, quotient spaces, fundamental theorem of linear operators: the image of a linear map f is isomorphic to the quotient of the domain of f by the kernel of f . The dual space and the transpose of a linear transformation.
3. Equivalence of the following (1) finding a basis such that the matrix representing a linear transform is in a simple form (2) canonical form of a matrix.

4. Vandermonde determinant. The determinant, trace, and characteristic polynomial in terms of the eigenvalues. Cayley-Hamilton Theorem.
5. Decompose space into direct sum of generalized eigenspaces. Nilpotent operator. Simultaneous diagonalization.
6. Hermitian spaces, Orthonormal Basis, decomposition of any matrix as a product of Hermitian and unitary. Bilinear forms, canonical form of quadratic and skew-symmetric bilinear forms, signatures.
7. Positive definite symmetric matrices. Normal operators, unitary operators. Rayleigh quotient.

References

Axler, *Linear Algebra Done Right* is a popular and well-written textbook. Friedberg, Insel, and Spence, *Linear Algebra*. Hoffman and Kunze, *Linear Algebra* for more advanced treatment.

B. Vector Calculus and Differential Equations

Essential requirements

1. The derivative of a function $f: R^n \rightarrow R^n$. Linear approximation.
2. Line integrals. The multidimensional Riemann integral. Change of variables formula.
3. Div, grad, curl and relations between them. Divergence theorem, Stokes' theorem, Green's theorem.
4. Existence and uniqueness of solutions to a first order Ordinary Differential Equations (ODE).
5. First and second order linear ODEs with constant coefficients.
6. Higher order linear ODEs and systems of first order ODEs.

More advanced topics

1. Implicit and inverse function theorem
2. Multivariate Taylor series
3. Existence and Uniqueness theorem of systems of ODE

References

This topic is typically covered partly by the calculus sequence, for instance, Marsden and Tromba, *Vector Calculus*, or Stewart, *Calculus*, Chapters 11-15. Additional work in differential equations can be found in Boyce and DiPrima, *Elementary Differential Equations and Boundary Value Problems*, Chapters 1-5, 7. Advanced multivariate analysis can be found in Strichartz, *The Way of Analysis*, Chapters 11, 13, 15

C. Complex Analysis

Essential requirements

1. Holomorphic (analytic) functions.
2. Elementary functions and the mappings that they define.
3. Conformal mappings. Problems such as finding a conformal mapping from a quadrant to a disc.
4. The Taylor series of a holomorphic function.
5. Contour integrals. Cauchy's theorem. The Cauchy formula.

6. Poles. Meromorphic functions. Laurent series. Residues.
7. Evaluating contour integrals of meromorphic functions.
8. Using complex integration for evaluating some improper integrals.

References

E. Stein, R. Shakarchi, *Complex Analysis*. Chapters 1-3 and Section 8.1. Marsden and Hoffman, *Basic Complex Analysis*, Chapters 1-5. Brown and Churchill, *Complex Variables and Applications*, Chapters 1-9.

D. Abstract Algebra

Essential requirements

1. Basic examples of groups: cyclic groups, dihedral groups, permutation groups, alternating groups, and matrix groups.
2. Subgroups, homomorphisms, and isomorphisms.
3. Cosets, quotients, Lagrange's theorem, and the first isomorphism theorem.
4. Rings, ideals, and quotient rings.
5. Integral domains, prime ideals and maximal ideals.
6. Principal ideals and principal ideal domains (PIDs). Examples such as \mathbb{Z} and $\mathbb{F}[x]$.
7. Unique factorization in PIDs.
8. Finite and algebraic extensions, splitting fields, and finite fields.

More advanced topics

1. Structure of finitely generated abelian groups.
2. Group actions on sets. Orbits–stabilizers theorem and applications.
3. Simple groups and the Sylow theorems.
4. Geometric constructions of fields and Galois Theory
5. Galois theory and solvability by radicals.

References

Fraleigh, *A First Course in Abstract Algebra*; Gallian, *Contemporary Abstract Algebra*; Judson, *Abstract Algebra: Theory and Applications* (open access).

E. Real Analysis

Essential Requirements

1. Limits and continuity, including application of the $\varepsilon - \delta$ definition.
2. Integrals, including improper integrals. Convergence tests.
3. Sequences and series. Taylor series. Radius of convergence.
4. Series of functions. Uniform convergence.
5. Exchanging the order of summation and limit.
6. Differentiation and integration of series of functions.

7. Countable and uncountable sets. Axiom of choice and Zorn's lemma.
8. Axioms for \mathbf{R} .

More advanced topics

1. Lebesgue integral

References

R. Courant, F. John: *Introduction to Calculus and Analysis, vol. I*. Chapters 1-3, 5 and 7; R. Strichartz: *The Way of Analysis*, Chapters 1-10, 14.

F. Point Set Topology

1. Basics of set theory, inclusion/subset, injection, surjection, bijection.
2. Open, closed, connected, and compact subsets of \mathbf{R}^n . Heine-Borel theorem.
3. Topological spaces and Hausdorff spaces.
4. Metric spaces as topological spaces.
5. Continuous functions.
6. Compact sets. Images of compact sets are compact. Continuous functions achieve their maximum on compact sets.
7. Connected sets. Images of connected sets are connected.

Advanced topics:

1. Tychonoff Theorem,
2. Metricization
3. Fundamental group.

References

Munkres, *Topology: A First Course*, Chapters 1-4; Rudin, *Principles of Mathematical Analysis*, Chapters 2 and 4, is a great source for basic metric topology: completeness, connectedness, compactness etc.

Selecting Your First-Year Classes

The primary learning goals of the first year or two of your graduate career are:

- 1) Demonstrate knowledge in a broad range of fundamental undergraduate level mathematics.
- 2) Demonstrate basic knowledge in a broad range of fundamental graduate level mathematics.

Students who need to cover some of the material in a Rigorous Undergraduate Mathematics Major (see above) may need to take some of the corresponding courses with a graduate number (e.g., Math 513 is co-convened with Math 413 and covers roughly the same material). Those who have completed a rigorous undergraduate mathematics major will be prepared to take the graduate *core courses*:

- MATH 511A (Algebra)
- MATH 523A (Real Analysis)
- MATH 534A (Topology-Geometry)

Before the start of the Fall semester you will have the opportunity to discuss the best set of courses for the first year with the Associate Head for the graduate program and other faculty and make changes as

needed. Part of this process will be to determine a plan for completing all of the necessary coursework and taking qualifying exams.

If you will be a teaching assistant you are required to register for

- MATH 597T (Professional Development Workshop in Teaching Mathematics) when it is offered in the first semester of your second year.

Ph. D. Requirements

This section describes the requirements for completing the PhD degree. Information about satisfactory progress through the program is in a separate section entitled “Satisfactory Progress,”

Graduate Students are expected to follow the policies and procedures for both the UA Graduate College and for the Department of Mathematics. Policies are updated frequently and it is the student’s responsibility to comply with current policies. Graduate College policies can be viewed on-line at <https://grad.arizona.edu/new-and-current-students>; university policies can be found at <https://catalog.arizona.edu/>.

A. Course Requirements

Students are required to complete 36 units of graduate credit in the major and 9 to 12 units in a supporting minor (as determined by the minor program), which may be declared in Mathematics, although outside minors are encouraged. In addition, 18 units of dissertation (Math 920) must be completed. Students cannot register for 920 until they have passed their oral comprehensive exam. This rule can be waived by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) in exceptional circumstances.

Traditional Core Courses

For each of the traditional core courses, Algebra (MATH 511A-B), Real Analysis (MATH 523A-B), and Geometry–Topology (MATH 534A-B), students must either take the course and receive a grade of B or better in both semesters or earn a high pass on the corresponding written qualifying exam. The material in these courses is essential knowledge for all mathematicians, and it is assumed in all further advanced coursework in the department.

Further Mathematics Coursework

Two year-long Mathematics course sequences that are not co-convened and are not part of the required core of algebra, real analysis, and geometry-topology are required. Students should seek advice on appropriate courses from their advisor, or faculty in the area in which they plan to do research or the director of the graduate program. For many students Complex Analysis (MATH 520A-B) is a good choice for one of these sequences.

Outside of Department Courses or Internship

Students who entered prior to Fall 2022, unless they elect to adopt the new Community and Professional Development requirement (see below), must take two courses (6 units) outside the mathematics department. These may be applied toward the minor, if appropriate. The spirit of the outside course requirement is that students should learn to communicate with and appreciate the perspectives of users and producers of mathematics in other disciplines. Courses which fulfill this requirement should (a) have significant content in mathematics or mathematics education; and (b) not be substantially equivalent to courses in the mathematics department. We maintain a list of a priori acceptable courses. A priori unacceptable courses include those cross-listed in mathematics or taught by a mathematics faculty member. An exception is that courses offered by the mathematics department in mathematics education may be used by students whose research area is not Mathematics Education to satisfy the outside course requirement.

Students may also satisfy this requirement by doing an internship during the summer or during the year. The student’s internship supervisor is required to write a brief letter detailing the work done by the student and the internship must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Students who entered the program Fall 2022 or later are encouraged but not required to take out-of-department courses or internships. If taken, these may be applied towards their course units and/or Professional Development requirements (see G2. Professional Development Requirements).

Minor

The University requires that PhD students declare a minor. PhD students in Mathematics may declare their minor in mathematics or in a supporting discipline. Requirements for the minor are determined by the minor department, but usually entail a program of 9 to 12 units. Students contemplating a minor other than Mathematics should consult with their thesis advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies regarding the suitability of their plans. Typical minors include Statistics, Computer Science, Education, Physics, and Applied Mathematics, though others may be considered.

Program of Study

The Plan of Study should be completed after the student has passed their qualifying exams. Each student must present a coherent collection of courses in which the work outside of Mathematics is related to part of the studies in Mathematics. There are many such possibilities, including: algebra, and computer science or discrete methods in operations research; probability, and statistics or reliability/quality control; numerical mathematics, and computer science or computational science; mathematical foundations and history, and education; analysis, and physics or optics; etc.

B. Graduate Faculty Advisor

All students in the Mathematics PhD program are required to have a Graduate Faculty Advisor (also called Major Professor) in order to maintain Satisfactory Progress. First year students should select a faculty advisor and have it approved by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS). If the student cannot find an advisor, the DGS will work with the student to appoint one. Students may change their advisor in consultation with the DGS at any time. Once an advisor is chosen, the student will inform the Graduate Coordinator. By the time a student starts to prepare for their Comprehensive Exam, it is expected that the chair of the Comprehensive Committee will take over the role of Graduate Faculty Advisor. It is typical for the Dissertation Advisor to serve as Graduate Faculty Advisor once the research area is selected.

The primary responsibilities of a Graduate Faculty Advisor include:

1. Be a source of academic information for their graduate students.
2. Provide assistance with details in determining the Plan of Study.
3. Be proficient in inputting, managing, and approving forms in GradPath as needed to assure smooth progression to final degree.
4. Meet periodically with their students and provide regular, timely input to determine academic progress. This may include review of the Plan of Study and Prospectus as prepared by the student.

When selecting the Graduate Faculty Advisor, the student should contact the faculty member to discuss expectations for both the faculty member and the student. The two shall meet throughout the academic year and at the end of each semester the student will complete the end of year Career Conversation form to discuss with the advisor. A survey will be filled out at least twice yearly to report progress to the Graduate Office.

C. Research Tutorial Groups

Students must enroll in MATH 596G and complete a research tutorial group (RTG) project starting in the spring semester of their first year of enrollment. In the spring, MATH 596G is a one-unit course in which faculty members present short lecture series on research topics of current interest. In the following fall, students choose one of the proposed topics and work with the corresponding faculty member on a research project. This project and a presentation of it at the end of the fall semester is the basis for three more units of credit in MATH 596G. The RTG project is meant to be an early introduction to research in mathematics and forms part of the evaluation of the qualifying exam.

D. Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination is based on the following assessment options:

- A written exam in algebra
- A written exam in analysis
- A written exam in geometry and topology
- An MS thesis

Students must attempt at least three assessment options. Two of the assessments must be chosen from the traditional core exams (the first three options). Each written exam is offered in August and January. There is no limit to the number of attempts for the written exams. Students may attempt more than three assessment options. Students with prior preparation may attempt the examinations upon entrance to the program, or after one semester.

Each of the options has three possible grades: fail, pass, and high pass as determined by a Qualifying Exam Committee, typically consisting of graders of all of the written exams. In general, a grade of high pass indicates the student is ready to go on to advanced course work and to prepare for the comprehensive exam. For the MS thesis option the meaning of pass is that the thesis is acceptable for the MS degree. The meaning of high pass is that the quality of the thesis indicates the student is capable of PhD level work. The thesis need not contain original work, but the quality should indicate that the student has the potential for such work. The grade for the MS thesis is determined by the thesis committee. Prior to scheduling your thesis defense, you will need to get your MS committee approved by submitting the [MS Thesis Committee Approval form](#) to the Graduate Office.

The written exams in algebra, analysis and geometry/topology cover material from the traditional core courses, Algebra (MATH 511A-B), Real Analysis (MATH 523A-B), and Topology–Geometry (MATH 534A-B). They also include a small amount of undergraduate level material. For the algebra exam this undergraduate material is from linear algebra. For the analysis exam it is from rigorous advanced calculus. For the geometry/topology exam it is from undergraduate complex analysis. Short lists of topics on the exams and copies of recent examinations are available [on the web](#).

To successfully complete the PhD qualifying examination, a student is expected to obtain a result of high pass in two of the assessment options and a result of pass or high pass in a third. The Graduate Committee will be responsible for making the final determination as to whether the student has successfully completed the PhD qualifying examination and may take into account all factors relating to the student's work.

Students must successfully complete the qualifying exams before the end of their sixth semester to continue in the PhD program. Students who fail to do so will be ineligible for funding and will be recommended for disqualification from the program. A letter will be sent to the student at the end of their fifth semester notifying them that they may be placed on probation if they do not complete the exams by the deadline, and a copy will be sent to the Graduate College.

For appeals of individual exam scores, students should meet with individual graders or members of the Qualifying Exam Committee or MS Thesis Committee, as appropriate. They should also register their appeal through the Graduate Office and/or the Director of Graduate Studies within 10 days of receiving their scores.

Further appeal of qualifying exam results follows the Appeals Procedure in the Satisfactory Progress section.

E. Comprehensive Examination

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to determine whether the student has mastered the necessary general and specialized knowledge required to carry out dissertation research. The comprehensive exam has written and oral parts and takes place after the student has completed their qualifying exams. To complete the written part, students write a short paper which may give an account of a research problem of interest, a significant example, or significant computations. An updated CV must also be submitted. The written part must be approved by the examining committee, which consists of a minimum of 4 tenured or tenure-track faculty including the minor advisor, at least two weeks before the oral examination. The minor department may waive the written portion of the minor at their discretion. The oral examination consists of a talk by the student, followed by questions from the examining committee. The total time of the exam cannot exceed 3 hours. The committee must include the minor advisor who must be present for the oral exam. Students who do not pass the first attempt may take it a second time, with the written consent of the Director of Graduate Studies. For appeals, see the section on Appeals Procedure in the Satisfactory Progress section. The Oral Comprehensive Examination is primarily, but not exclusively, on material in the area of concentration. The examination covers background material for the general area together with advanced references in a more specific sub-specialty.

F. Prospectus

After completing the comprehensive exam, students are expected to prepare a prospectus in consultation with their advisor. The [prospectus](#) is a detailed plan for the last years of their program. This plan should include a discussion of the research being undertaken as well as courses to take, seminars to participate in, faculty beyond the dissertation advisor to interact with, and possibly conferences to attend and professional development activities to undertake. Students must complete a departmental approval form.

G1. Professional Development Requirements (for students entering prior to Fall 2022)

PhD students must complete two professional development requirements chosen from this list:

- a foreign language requirement,
- a computing requirement, and
- a communication skills requirement.

Details of each requirement are given below. The requirements have been designed so that to a great extent they should be satisfied by activities that would normally be undertaken by any good PhD student. The need for foreign language and computing skills varies considerably among fields of mathematics and so students should consult with their advisors on which requirements would be the best choice. Advisors may also suggest that students complete more than the minimum of two of these requirements. Students are urged to complete the professional development requirements as early in their programs as possible.

In all cases, they must be completed before advancement to candidacy. Failure to do so will delay advancement to candidacy and may delay the dissertation defense.

Foreign Language Requirement

A substantial portion of the mathematical literature is written in languages other than English, principally French, German, and Russian. Knowledge of Spanish is important for some fields of Mathematics Education. Being able to read and accurately translate these texts is a valuable skill in Mathematics and Mathematics Education research.

In order to fulfill the foreign language requirement, students will demonstrate their abilities to read and accurately translate mathematical texts in French, German, or Russian, (or, for students in Mathematics Education, texts relevant to that field in Spanish) by passing an examination given by a faculty member approved by the graduate committee. The student will prepare a careful, written translation of a text chosen by the examining faculty member (typically 5–10 pages) in a limited amount of time (typically 48–72 hours), with the aid of a dictionary and language reference works, but without the assistance of computers or other people. As a minimum standard, the translation must be mathematically accurate. We maintain a [list of approved examiners](#).

Grading of language examinations is a significant burden on faculty and students should not make frivolous attempts to pass the examination without sufficient preparation. Faculty members may administer an oral “pre-test” to gauge whether the student appears to be prepared for the examination.

Results of foreign language examinations should be communicated to the graduate office by the examining faculty member using the [language examination form](#).

Computing Requirement

Machine computation is an increasingly important component of mathematical research. Students for whom such computation will be relevant should master the needed programming skills and software packages during their graduate careers.

To fulfill the computing requirement, students should demonstrate their mastery of the relevant skills by carrying out a significant computing project under the supervision of a mathematics faculty member. This project might be tied to course work, the student's MS thesis, or his or her dissertation research. The precise nature of the project will be determined by the student and the sponsoring faculty member, but projects must have substantial mathematical content and should typically involve the following aspects of computing:

- formatted input and output
- appropriate use of data structures and algorithms
- use of structured programming techniques, possibly including calls to externally provided subroutines or functions.

Projects may be written in a standard programming language such as Python, Java, C, or Fortran, or may use software packages such as Matlab, Maple, R, Mathematica, SAS, GAP, or Pari.

At the conclusion of the project, working code and documentation must be made available on the department's web site. The completion of the requirement should be communicated to the graduate office by the sponsoring faculty member using the [computing examination form](#).

Communication Skills Requirement

The ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing and to audiences of varying levels of sophistication, is essential to a successful career in industry, research, or teaching. The communication

skills requirement gives students an opportunity to develop their capabilities in a variety of directions. To complete the requirement students must:

- prepare a basic web page containing information on the student's research, teaching, and other professional activities and make this page available on the department's web site
- prepare a professional CV and post it on the web site
- write articles or proposals and give lectures or presentations for audiences of various levels of sophistication so that at least one activity occurs in each row and column of the following table of examples:

	Verbal	Written
non-mathematical audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HS visit • Galileo circle talk • Math Inst Colloq 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CATTS or space grant • Dept newsletter article • An essay, intended for undergraduates on your research
general mathematical audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colloquium talk • MS thesis defense • poster session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grant proposal • survey article
specialist audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seminar talk • conference talk • poster session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research paper • MS thesis • Math review article • paper for a course

The entries in the table are meant to be illustrative and do not exhaust the possibilities. Written components should use TeX or other scientific text processing software. Verbal components may involve the use of such technologies as presentation software. Each component must be sponsored by a faculty member who will review the text or presentation and provide constructive feedback. When the sponsoring faculty member is satisfied with a student's performance on a component of the requirement, this fact should be communicated to the graduate office using the [communication skills progress form](#).

G2. Professional Development Requirements (for students entering Fall 2022 or later or who opt in)

Students entering Fall 2022 or later will be subject to the following professional development requirements. Students who entered prior to Fall 2022 have the option of following these requirements or the requirements in the handbook listed under “Professional Development Requirements prior to Fall 2022.” Students who wish to use the new requirements must formally “opt in.” Note that those who opt in to the new requirements will be exempt from both the prior Professional Development requirement (G1) and the out-of-department course requirement.

Context:

Students graduating from the Mathematics PhD programs move on to many different careers, including those in the academic, industrial, and government fields. In each of these fields, it is essential that applicants have more skills than those developed singularly through PhD research and teaching.

Successful applicants to academic positions must be able to contribute to multiple axes of the academic endeavor, including mentoring, service, and leadership. Successful applicants to industrial positions must be able to work in teams with both their supervisors and colleagues and be able to communicate effectively with stakeholders. It is notable that most recently there has been a significant trend among graduating PhD students away from academic positions and toward industry regardless of the field of mathematical study.

Purpose:

The overarching goal of these requirements is to help students develop into well-rounded individuals who will gain important skills and competencies that will help them be competitive toward multiple career paths.

The goal of professional development and community development requirements are to develop important “soft skills” necessary for future employment and job success. These include, but are not limited to communication, teamwork, critical thinking, organization, networking, problem solving, and leadership. Many of these are interpersonal skills which require interaction with people outside the mathematics community. Professional and community development are done throughout one’s career. The goal of the professional development requirement is to set a precedent for students to become lifelong learners toward bettering themselves as professionals. The goal of the community development requirement is to set a precedent for students to engage in their communities and work to improve them.

It is clear that certain aspects of professional development and community development can take significant time from other commitments. These requirements are not meant to be a significant time drain from other aspects of their programs such as research and teaching, but instead meant to enhance students’ experience and a record of performance for future job application. Many opportunities may be paid; students are encouraged to seek out paid opportunities such as internships or running qual study sessions. Students should not accept previously paid positions at an unpaid status in order to satisfy professional development or community development requirements. It is intended that students need spend no more than 1-2 hours per week, on average, on these requirements and there is significant flexibility in when and how they are done.

Requirements:

In order to help balance and guide students through this process and create an individualized experience that allows students to handle changing circumstances throughout their time in the program, students will work with advisors each year to plan and assess the amount of work to be devoted to professional development and community development each year. For instance, if a student serves as an officer in an organization that takes significant time one year, it may be prudent to do community development with a lower time commitment the following year. Some years require more time to devote to studies (such as during qualifying exams or when finishing a dissertation), and this should be taken into consideration when planning, and also revisited during the year if changes need to be made. The student-advisor relationship will be relied upon to ensure that the student is able to complete these activities taking into account any mental or physical limitations such as anxiety, and to ensure students find a program that promotes their development without getting in the way of other necessary pieces of the graduate program such as exams and defenses.

Students will discuss a plan for community development and professional development at the beginning of each year and touch base with their advisor through the year with updates. It is expected that students will explore a few areas of work with the community (each with a low time commitment) in their initial years and then take a leadership role in later years in one or more areas of their choice. This will provide a wealth of different experiences and help the students develop a narrative for use in later job applications and interviews. Professional and community development activities may be paid; being paid does not preclude them from being considered as professional development or community development requirements for the year. The advisor and the student will need to agree on use of such requirements. It is generally expected that the time commitment for all of these requirements averages no more than 1-2 hours per week, and any commitments that will be longer (for instance, taking an out-of-department course) should be specifically discussed in this context as to whether it is a good plan for the student.

The Graduate Committee will review all plans each Fall semester in order to ensure that the plans are not too onerous on the student and satisfy the spirit of the requirements as stated above.

The following constitute the requirements:

1. Professional development requirement: Professional development is required yearly after year 1. In jobs, this is sometimes called training and sometimes people get certification. Possible examples are:
 - a. Internship. May be paid, but does not have to be.
 - b. Grad college workshops
 - c. Other workshops such as implicit bias as offered by AWM or other
 - d. Interview current and/or graduated students and/or postdocs
 - e. Coding or data science or other professional training (e.g., Data Carpentry)
 - f. Data science competition (e.g., from Kaggle). These could be organized as events every year or semester, or could be the responsibility of the student to do as needed.
 - g. Conferences/workshops focused on diversity and/or equity (e.g., Math Alliance Field of Dreams, EDGE)
 - h. Being a mentor in an undergraduate project-based course like Math 485 or Data 485.
 - i. Toastmasters
 - j. Giving a talk at Research Bazaar or other broadening participation conferences
 - k. Giving a talk at a research conference
 - l. Giving a talk at the Grad Slam
 - m. Elevator talks (these are 2 minute talks for a general audience).
 - n. Other professional development opportunities offered by the department specifically designed for math students (such as a workshop on research, teaching and diversity statements, or on writing a CV)
2. Community development requirement: It is expected that the student will start to take leadership roles in the later years of their program. Here are several communities that may be considered:
 - a. The department community. This could include being a peer mentor, helping out at Integration or Recruitment Workshops, being a mentor for Math 485, volunteering at the Festival of Books, etc. Leadership roles could include being the grad representative, being an officer of AWM, AMS, or SIAM local chapter, Grad Colloquium Organizer, qual review leader, organizer of peer mentors.

- b. The university community. This could include volunteering to review grants for GPSC, working on university wide committees, helping with Grad Research Slam, being the graduate representative, helping with UROC, helping train incoming undergraduate students.
 - c. The mathematics community. This could include working on national boards or organizations, helping organize conferences.
 - d. The Tucson or Arizona community. This could involve outreach such as volunteering with math circles, the math bus, doing an Outreach Scholar semester, presenting at MEAD, working with teachers.
3. Broader Impact requirement: All National Science Foundation grants require the applicants to describe BOTH the proposal's "Intellectual Merit" and "Broader Impact." Intellectual Merit is the scientific content, and the research work would satisfy this piece. Broader Impacts are areas that benefit society. All students are expected to participate in at least one Broader Impact activity prior to completion of the PhD, which will likely come from the community and/or professional development activities. Some possible areas of broader impacts could be:
- a. Outreach scholars/working with teachers.
 - b. Working with incoming undergraduates with math preparation
 - c. Math Circles
 - d. Teacher Development workshops, Center for Recruitment and Retention of Math Teachers (CRR), or Math Educator Awareness Day (MEAD)
 - e. Math Bus
 - f. Volunteer at Tucson Festival of Books Science City booth
 - g. Participation in development of courses and activities related to research
 - h. Develop materials (website, news article, etc.) intended for the general public about research or another topic in mathematics.
4. Equity requirement: In order to assure that all students are aware of issues related to equity and inclusion, it is required that students participate in at least one activity designed to promote equity, such as a workshop on implicit bias, a colloquium talk discussing issues of equity in the classroom. Students are encouraged to meet this requirement early.

Evaluation:

At the end of each year, students will be evaluated in terms of the amount and quality of their community development and professional development and create recommendations for the following year. Part of this procedure will require keeping a current CV and writing a short narrative (not a list) on their community development and professional development activities as well as broader impact efforts. The evaluation will take place in the yearly Career Conversations between the Student and their Advisor, to be submitted to the Graduate Office. Professional and community development for the year will be evaluated at Satisfactory, Needs Improvement, or Unsatisfactory. Students with fewer than four years of Satisfactory community and professional development will need to petition for completion of the requirements and may be asked to remediate. The broader impact requirement can be satisfied at any time and completion will be submitted via form to the Director of Graduate Studies. Students who wish to contest the determination must submit a written letter to the Director of Graduate Studies within 14 days of receiving the evaluation. Should a student wish to dispute the decision of the Director of Graduate Studies, they may submit a letter to the Director of Graduate Studies or Graduate Coordinator, who will pass the letter on to the Graduate Committee, who will address the complaint within 10 working days.

At the inception of the program, some students may not have enough time to complete four years of community and professional development. For students who elect to use this requirement it is expected that students have Satisfactory community and professional development in each year after the program's inception in Fall 2022 until their graduation or completion of their sixth year in the program, whichever comes first. Students with more than one Needs Improvement or any Unsatisfactory will need to petition the Director of Graduate Studies to find a suitable alternative to the requirement.

H. Advancement to Candidacy

A student may advance to candidacy once they have completed all program requirements other than the dissertation. Students must advance to candidacy at least one semester prior to their dissertation defense. Failure to do so will delay the date of the dissertation defense.

I. Dissertation

The dissertation is a polished written account of a substantial new contribution to the mathematical sciences, publishable in a reputable journal. It is evaluated by an internal committee of at least 4 members who must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members or approved as equivalent by the Graduate College. One member may come from the minor department. Otherwise the members must be from the Mathematics Department. (Exceptions to this last rule may be granted by the Graduate Committee.) The dissertation committee approves the dissertation after a final oral defense. An updated CV must also be submitted. Students have the option of also including an external reviewer who is not on the faculty of the University of Arizona. The inclusion of such an outside reviewer can provide the student with valuable feedback as well as help make the student's research known outside the local community. Students should register for Math 920 while working on their dissertation. The Graduate College requires 18 units of Math 920.

The dissertation is by far the most important component of the PhD program and its quality and originality will have a major impact on the beginning of the student's professional career. Writing a quality dissertation should be the student's top priority.

J. Final Oral Examination

The final oral examination is a presentation and defense of the student's dissertation; the first part of the exam is open to the public.

H. Sample plans

The following gives an example of how students might schedule their coursework, community & professional development, teaching, and other milestones. It is meant to be a guideline and not prescriptive.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coursework</u>	<u>Community development</u>	<u>Professional development</u>	<u>Teaching</u>	<u>Exam/Milestone</u>
1	Algebra, Analysis, Linear Algebra	None	RTG Seminar	Assisting with college algebra/trig	Quals complete, Masters thesis if appropriate

2	Geometry/ Topology, Elective 1, RTG/Reading Course	<u>Volunteer with Math Circles, Math Bus, Tucson Festival of Books</u>	Teaching seminar, Internship, Grad College Workshops	Teaching seminar, Internship, Grad College Workshops	Quals complete, Masters thesis if appropriate
3	Elective 2, Elective 3, Reading Course	<u>Be a peer mentor</u> , help with recruitment workshop, or help with integration workshop	<u>Workshop on Equity, Implicit Bias, Imposter syndrome, etc.</u> or minor coursework	Pre-Calculus/ Calculus 1	Comprehensive Exam, Masters degree
4	Elective 4, Elective 5, Reading Course/Dissertatio n	Review Grants for GPSC, qual review leader, integration workshop, or <u>be an Outreach Scholar or other work with CRR</u>	Math 485 Mentor or Interview former UA Math PhD student. Regularly attend research seminar	Calculus 1/2	Comprehensive Exam, Masters degree
5	Dissertation/ Electives	Be Grad Student Representative, Organize research or professional development seminar, be an officer of AWM or AMS Chapter, <u>lead Peer Mentor program</u> , or <u>work with incoming undergraduate students on math preparation</u>	Kaggle competition, Grad College workshop on job preparation, minor or certification in statistics or other field. Regularly attend research seminar	Calculus 2	Candidacy, Dissertation Defense, Minor or certificate completion
6	Dissertation/ Electives	Serve on a national board for mathematics grad students, write an article for Math newsletter, <u>mentor an undergraduate in research</u> , <u>give a talk at Math Educator Awareness Day</u>	Grad Slam, Data Carpentry workshop, or outside coursework. Regularly attend research seminar	Statistics/Linea r Algebra/Vector Calculus	Candidacy, Dissertation Defense, Minor or certificate completion
>6	Dissertation	As available			Candidacy, Dissertation Defense, Minor or certificate completion

Note that underlined items are possible Broader Impact activities.

Typical electives by research area (important core courses are in parentheses):

- **Algebraic Geometry:** (Abstract Algebra), Commutative Algebra, Algebraic Geometry, Lie Groups, Complex Analysis
- **Analysis and its Applications:** (Real Analysis), Banach and Hilbert Spaces, Complex Analysis, Partial Differential Equations
- **Applied Mathematics:** (Real Analysis), Probability Math, Stochastic Processes, Perturbation Methods, Dynamical Systems, Partial Differential Equations, Numerical Analysis PDE

- **Computational Science and Numerical Analysis:** (Real Analysis), Numerical Analysis, Numerical Analysis PDE, Perturbation Methods
- **Dynamical Systems:** (Real Analysis), Dynamical Systems, Banach and Hilbert Spaces, PDE
- **Geometric Analysis:** (Geometry/Topology, Real Analysis), Global Differential Geometry, Lie Groups, Partial Differential Equations, Complex Analysis
- **Group Theory:** (Abstract Algebra), Group Theory, Lie Groups, Commutative Algebra
- **Mathematical Physics:** (Real Analysis), Mathematical Physics, Probability Math, Stochastic Processes, Banach and Hilbert Spaces
- **Mathematics Education:** Research on the Learning of Mathematics, Research Methods in Math Education, Research on the Teaching of Mathematics, Research Design, Educational Research/Practice
- **Number Theory:** (Abstract Algebra), Commutative Algebra, Algebraic Geometry, Algebraic Number Theory, Complex Analysis
- **Probability:** (Real Analysis), Probability Math, Stochastic Processes, Banach and Hilbert Spaces
- **Statistics:** (Real Analysis), Probability, Statistics/Theoretical Statistics, Statistical Machine Learning
- **Topology and Geometry:** (Geometry/Topology), Global Differential Geometry, Lie Groups, Complex Analysis, Algebraic Geometry

PhD Degree Requirements: MATHEMATICS EDUCATION OPTION

A. Course Requirements

The course requirements are 36 units of graduate credit in the major and a minor in Education (or related field).

Courses in Mathematics

Students will take graduate core courses in Algebra ([MATH 511A-B](#)), Real Analysis ([MATH 523A-B](#)), and Topology–Geometry ([MATH 534A-B](#)), and take Qualifying Examinations as described in [PhD program in Mathematics](#). The remaining 18 units will be chosen in consultation with an advisor. These remaining units will include one year-long Mathematics course sequence that is not co-convened and is not part of the required core of algebra, real analysis, and topology-geometry. Some of the units will include relevant courses in Mathematics Education research (to be discussed with an advisor).

Courses in Education (or related field)

The 12 units in Education (or related) will be chosen in consultation with an advisor to ensure a coherent program of study. The courses will primarily be in Education. Courses in psychology, anthropology, sociology, women's studies, etc., may also be appropriate, depending on the student's research focus. Some suggested Education courses are listed below. EDUC 500, 501, 600, 601, 602; TTE 521, 524, 532, 545, 621, 640. Two courses in research design and methods (e.g., EDUC 600, 601, 602, or appropriate research methods courses in other fields such as sociology, anthropology, agriculture, ...) are required.

Teaching Experience or Practicum

Two or more years of pre-college teaching experience are required. Students can fulfill this requirement through 9 units of practicum in local schools. Such students will take 3 units per semester to complete one practicum at the elementary school level, one at the middle school level, and one at the high school level. (Note: these 9 units do not apply toward the required 36 units of mathematics nor the 12 minor units.)

Minor

The same stipulations as given for the [PhD program in Mathematics. The minor should be in Education or a related field.](#)

B. Graduate Faculty Advisor

The same stipulations as given for the [PhD program in Mathematics](#)

C. Program of Study

The same stipulations as given for the [PhD program in Mathematics.](#)

D. Qualifying Examination

Same as for the [PhD program in Mathematics.](#)

E. Comprehensive Examination

Similar guidelines to those for the [PhD program in Mathematics](#), but the area of concentration will be in Mathematics Education.

F. Prospectus

The same stipulations as given for the [PhD program in Mathematics.](#)

G. Professional Development Requirements

Same as for the [PhD program in Mathematics. Students who wish to pursue foreign language may wish to consider](#) Spanish or American Sign Language as well as French, German, or Russian.

H. Advancement to Candidacy

The same stipulations as given for the [PhD program in Mathematics.](#)

I. Dissertation

Same guidelines as for the [PhD program in Mathematics.](#) The dissertation will be in Mathematics Education.

J. Final Oral Examination

Same as for the [PhD program in Mathematics.](#)

Satisfactory Progress - PhD program

Satisfactory Progress will be tracked throughout the student's time in the program. Failure to meet Satisfactory Progress could result in disciplinary action such as academic probation, nonrenewal of graduate assistantships, or expulsion from the program. Note the appeals process at the end of this section. Requirements for satisfactory progress are overseen by the DGS in consultation with the Graduate Committee.

Variations

Satisfactory progress policies for students in unusual situations, for example those entering in the spring semester, will be decided on an individual basis and agreed upon in writing at the time of entrance to the program.

Progress in the first three years

Admission to the PhD program implies a three-year initial commitment by the department, provided that satisfactory academic progress is made and teaching obligations are met. Satisfactory progress is defined as being enrolled for at least 6 units of graduate or approved credit in each semester, maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0 in each semester, and meeting the following expectations.

Students are expected to complete the core courses and qualifying exams as expeditiously as possible. They are encouraged to attempt any part of the qualifying exam for which they may be ready in August before the first semester of enrollment. A failure on such an attempt will not prejudice any future evaluation of qualifying exam results.

It is expected that students will enroll in at least one of the traditional core courses during the first year and attempt the corresponding part of the qualifying exam in August following the first year of enrollment. Students are expected to have passed at least one part of the qualifying exam at the "high pass" level by January of the second year of enrollment and to have completed the core courses and attempted all three parts of the qualifying exam by August before the third year of enrollment. Students must successfully complete the qualifying exams by the end of their sixth semester to continue in the PhD program.

Progress in later years

Continuation in the PhD program beyond the third year implies a commitment on the part of the department to two, or possibly three, more years of support, provided that satisfactory academic progress is made and teaching obligations are met. Satisfactory progress is defined as being enrolled for at least 6 units of graduate or approved credit in each semester, maintaining a GPA of at least 3.0 in each semester, and making adequate progress toward the dissertation as determined by the faculty.

Students are encouraged to complete the written and oral comprehensive examination as early as possible. In all cases, this exam must be complete by the end of February of the fourth year of enrollment. Failure to meet this deadline would be a violation of the "adequate progress" requirement in the preceding paragraph.

Funding and continuation in the program for a sixth year will be determined by the graduate committee based on the recommendation of the advisor. Funding and continuation in the program beyond the sixth year will be possible only in some circumstances, as determined by the Graduate Committee. Examples of

such circumstances may include leave of absence, maternity/paternity leave, or health problems. For appeals, see the section on Appeals Procedure.

Appeals Procedure

The following gives the procedure if a student wishes to appeal any of the requirements mentioned above. The first step is to provide an appeal in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies, Graduate Coordinator, or Graduate Office. The appeal will be reviewed by the Graduate Committee according to their procedures. The Committee may place additional requirements/deadlines on the student as a prerequisite for continuing in the program.

Note that these procedures are for appeals of graduate program requirements, not individual grades or qualifying exam results. Course grade appeals can be made through the Graduate College and appeal of qualifying exam results should be made through the qualifying committee or to individual examiners.

The Graduate Office will respond within 7 business days that the appeal has been received and give an explanation of the further steps being taken. The office should provide an update to the student at least every 2 weeks.

M.A./M.S. Requirements

Course Requirements

MA Degree: 30 units of approved graduate credit, including up to 6 units of thesis credits, up to 12 units of which may be outside the Department of Mathematics. At least one year-long course sequence in mathematics which is not co-convened must be included.

MA Degree (Teaching Option): 30 units of approved graduate credit, including up to 6 units of thesis credit; 9 to 12 units should be outside the Department of Mathematics or from the following list of graduate mathematics courses: Math 504, 530, and 596E (Topics in Mathematics for Secondary Teachers – contents will vary, the course may be repeated). At least 12 units of mathematics should not be from that list, and should include a year long course sequence which is not co-convened. Each candidate's course of study should be established in consultation with a member of the Mathematics Education Committee. Please consult the [Mathematics Education Research](#) website.

MS Degree: 30 units of approved graduate credit, including up to 6 units of thesis credit. Up to 12 units of these may be outside the Department of Mathematics. The 30 units must include at least 18 units of courses that are not co-convened, including a year long course sequence in mathematics.

Graduate Faculty Advisor

The same stipulations as given for the [PhD program in Mathematics](#)

Program of Study

Each student must present a coherent collection of courses in which the work outside of Mathematics is related to part of the studies in Mathematics. There are many such possibilities, including: algebra, and computer science or discrete methods in operations research; probability, and statistics or reliability/quality control; numerical mathematics, and computer science or computational science; mathematical foundations and history, and education; analysis, and physics or optics; etc.

Thesis or Examination or Additional Coursework

Students must complete a master's thesis, or qualifying examination.

Students who choose to complete a Master's thesis may receive up to 6 units of graduate credit. PhD candidates may substitute successful completion of the Comprehensive Examination for the Master's thesis. The thesis is evaluated by an internal committee of at least 3 members who must be tenured or tenure-track faculty members or approved as equivalent by the Graduate College.

Students who choose to use a qualifying examination must receive a "Pass" in one of the qualifying examinations as described in PhD program in Mathematics.

Professional Development Requirements

For students entering the program prior to Fall 2022, MA and MS students must complete one professional development requirement chosen from this list:

- foreign language requirement
- computing requirement
- communication skills requirement

The details of each requirement are the same as for the PhD program and may be found in Section G1. Students should consult with their advisors on which requirement would be the best choice given their area of study and career plans. Advisors may also suggest that students complete more than one of these requirements. Students are urged to complete the professional development requirement as early in their programs as possible.

For students entering prior to Fall 2022, the 30 units of coursework must include 6 units in courses from departments other than Mathematics. As with the PhD degree, the requirement of 6 units from outside the Mathematics Department may also be satisfied with an internship. See the "Outside of Department Courses or Internship" section of the [PhD requirements](#) for more details.

Students who enter the program Fall 2022 or later are subject to the same yearly professional development requirements in Section G2 above in the PhD program for each year after the first year or for at least one year, whichever is greater.

Examinations

Successful performance is required of all MA and MS recipients on either a Final Oral Examination which covers work presented for the Master's Degree and defense of the thesis, or the Comprehensive Oral Examination for the PhD degree.

PhD Minor Requirements

The PhD Minor in Mathematics consists of 12 units of coursework in mathematics. Students must earn a "B" or higher in all coursework, or receive instructor approval that indicates the student's performance in their course merits a PhD minor. If a student does not receive a "B" or higher, and the instructor does not feel the student's performance merits a PhD minor, the student may appeal the decision. The appeals process is outlined under the Satisfactory Progress section above. Students are required to fill out the [PhD](#)

[Minor in Mathematics Course Approval Form](#) before beginning their coursework. It is required that a member of the Mathematics Department represent the minor on the student's Comprehensive Exam committee.

All transfer course work must be approved by the minor advisor, with final approval given by the Director of Graduate Studies. In cases where suitable course work was transferred or where the advisor cannot or will not approve the transfer credit, an examination set by the PhD minor advisor may be substituted. The student may also appeal the decision as outlined above.

Students may also choose two supporting minor subjects, in which case 6 units of approved graduate coursework is required for each minor.

Mathematics courses that are required for the student's PhD major or are in the subject area of the student's PhD major may not be used towards the Mathematics PhD minor. (For example, a PhD student in Statistics cannot use math courses that are required for the Statistics PhD or math courses whose content is statistics for the Mathematics PhD minor.)

Some co-convened courses may be suitable as part of the PhD minor, but as a general rule the PhD minor advisor will not approve a plan of study that includes more than 6 units of co-convened courses.

It is highly recommended that students consult with their PhD minor advisor about the suitability of their course work for the minor and for their careers **before** beginning their coursework.

A representative from Math is required to be on the Comprehensive Exam Committee. The Department may waive the need for a representative on the Dissertation Committee.

Graduate Courses in Mathematics

This page explains the various types of graduate courses in mathematics at the University of Arizona.

Core courses and regular courses

The core courses (511AB—Algebra, 523AB—Real Analysis, and 534AB—Topology-Geometry) constitute the foundation on which the rest of the program is built. These courses are normally taken in the first two years and cover the material to be mastered for the qualifying exams.

“Regular courses” are by definition the more advanced courses taught for the most part in the traditional lecture format. These courses serve to take the student from the foundation provided by the core courses to more specialized knowledge required for dissertation research.

RTGs

“Research Tutorial Groups” introduce graduate students to mathematical research training at the end of the first year and beginning of the second year, typically well in advance of formal dissertation research. In the spring of the first year, students listen to short lecture series on topics of current interest. In the following fall, students choose a faculty mentor and work on a research training project with the mentor, and possibly a small group of fellow students, as part of a three credit RTG course. The spring lecture series is one unit of credit while the fall research group is three units of credit. Note that each unit of credit represents at least 3 hours per week of work.

Co-convened courses

“Co-convened” courses are advanced undergraduate courses (400 level) which are also given a 500 level number and the two courses are given simultaneously. (E.g., Symbolic Logic is both Math 401A and Math 501A.) Graduate students may take these courses for graduate credit. They are mainly populated by senior level undergraduates and graduate students from other departments, but mathematics graduate students sometimes take these courses to fill in missing background or in Masters level coursework. A limited number of co-convened credits are applicable to the PhD.

Topics courses and independent studies

Special topics courses are offered each term by faculty, usually in areas of particular expertise (although sometimes the inspiration is that the subject is popular and the faculty member wants to learn about it as well). They are typically one-time only offerings and may lead to dissertation topics.

Independent studies are arranged between faculty and students at the discretion of the faculty member. In a typical such course, the student would study a book or paper and meet weekly with the faculty member to discuss the work and related problems. Independent Study course catalog numbers are listed below.

Math 593 – Internship Credit

Math 599 – Reading course for students before passing their comprehensive exam

Math 900 - Research not related to dissertation

Math 910 – Thesis units (for Master’s degree)

Math 920 – Dissertation units (for PhD)

Identifying Special Topics courses

The following university course catalog numbers are reserved for Special Topics courses: 518, 519, 529, 538, 577, 588.

When a Special Topics course is announced, it will be open but with the designation TBA. If there is sufficient student demand for the course, and the department has the resources to cover all its other teaching obligations, the course will be properly scheduled. Otherwise the course will be canceled.

Outside department courses

These consist of courses offered by other departments. A list of pre-approved courses can be found on our [website](#). Note that co-listed courses are generally considered out-of-department courses if they are taught by a faculty member that is not a member of the Mathematics Department.

Graduate Assistant/Associate Guidelines

GA Classifications, Salary, and Promotion

Graduate Assistants/Associates in Teaching & Research (GAs) are officially classified into four categories:

Category	Academic year pay (0.50 Appointment)
Level I Graduate Assistant	\$23,000
Level II Graduate Assistant	\$23,796

Graduate Associate	\$24,589
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The pay rates given here are current. Increases correspond to annual University budgetary guidelines.

Graduate Assistant I

New GAs start as Graduate Assistant I.

Graduate Assistant II

To be promoted to Graduate Assistant II, a student must both

1. complete the Qualifying Exam portion of the PhD program and
2. have satisfactory teaching or research performance.

Graduate Associate

To be promoted to Graduate Associate, a student must both

3. pass the [comprehensive exam](#), and
4. have satisfactory teaching or research performance.

Promotions will normally take place in August following achievement of milestones.

Satisfactory Teaching/Research Performance

Satisfactory teaching performance means that the GA in teaching received positive evaluation on the Career Conversations form from their Teaching Mentor; unsatisfactory performance in any area is viewed as an unsatisfactory evaluation. All teaching activities of GAs are under the supervision of an assigned Teaching Mentor from the department. The GA will complete the Career Conversations form with the Teaching Mentor, who will comment and both will sign the form and submit it to the Graduate Office.

Satisfactory research performance is determined by the professor with whom the GA in research worked. It should be based on expectations set at the beginning of the period of funding. A Career Conversation form for Research Assistants will be completed by the GA with the Research Mentor, who will comment and both will sign the form and submit to the Graduate Office.

Unsatisfactory teaching or research performance may result in probation, nonrenewal of funding, or removal from the position depending on the severity of the poor performance and if the student was previously on probation.

Appeals

Appeals will follow the same procedure as outlined in the Satisfactory Progress section.

Duties of a Half-Time (50%) Graduate Assistant or Associate in Teaching (GA):

1. First-year Graduate Assistant duties will include:
 1. Teaching four (4) [units](#) per semester or equivalent time spent on tutoring, grading, or proctoring examinations.
 2. Completion of the University's [Mandatory Online Trainings](#) as stipulated on the Graduate College website.
 3. Mandatory attendance of the Mathematics Department orientation of three half-days.
2. For Graduate Assistants/Associates in their second or later years, duties will include:

1. Teaching nine (9) [units](#) per year or equivalent time spent on tutoring, grading, or proctoring examinations.
2. Completion of MATH 597T in the first semester of the second year or first opportunity after completing one year of being a TA.

Math 597T is a required course for all students serving as teaching assistants (TAs) in the Math Department, regardless of their specific graduate program. Completing the course with a grade of at least B by the end of their third semester as a GTA is considered a condition for satisfactory completion of duties as a TA. Math 597T is a one-unit class that meets once per week in the Fall only. Enrollment is made through the Math Graduate Office. Students are typically enrolled automatically at the first opportunity after the first year in their program, but students should also keep track of this requirement. Contact the Math Graduate Office for any questions.

This seminar offers a valuable opportunity to develop and refine your teaching skills—whether you're just starting out or already have classroom experience. It is also an opportunity to practice personal and professional growth and learn how to better communicate and collaborate with other educators.

More information about duties of a Graduate Assistant/Associate for Teaching can be found in the Mathematics Department Resource Manual.

Units of Teaching are determined as follows:

1. If the teaching assistant/associate has total responsibility for a class then each hour per week of teaching counts as one unit.
2. Each hour per week spent in the tutoring room counts as 2/5 unit.
3. Each hour per week spent grading counts as 1/3 unit for undergraduate courses, or 2/5 unit for graduate courses.
4. For a student holding a Graduate Assistantship/Associateship in Teaching for a percentage of time other than 50%, the duties are assigned proportionately (e.g., the work load for a 25% GTA is half of that for a 50% GTA).

Conditions for a Graduate Assistant or Associate in Teaching (GA):

Employment as a GA in Teaching is contingent upon the following:

1. Maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average in your graduate courses;
2. Successful completion of at least six units of credit towards your degree program during each semester of this appointment;
3. Satisfactory evaluation of your performance as a teaching assistant;
4. Selection of a Graduate Faculty Advisor and at least two meetings per semester.
5. If you have passed the Qualifying Examination at the PhD level, that you make satisfactory progress towards identifying an advisor, forming your Oral Comprehensive Examination Committee, and preparing for your Oral Comprehensive Exam;
6. If you have already completed your Oral Comprehensive Exam, that you have identified a dissertation topic and are making good progress on your dissertation research;
7. While employed as a GA, students may not hold other employment at the University of Arizona or elsewhere which involves 10 hours per week or more without prior, written approval from the Director of Graduate Studies.

Conditions for a Graduate Assistant or Associate in Research (GA) or other:

Employment as a GA in Research, GA in Outreach, or other form of GA other than Teaching is contingent upon the following:

1. Maintaining at least a 3.0 grade point average in your graduate courses.
2. Successful completion of at least six units of credit towards your degree program during each semester of this appointment.
3. Satisfactory evaluation of your performance as a research assistant.
4. Selection of a Graduate Faculty Advisor and at least two meetings per semester.
5. Funding commitment from a Graduate Advisor or research mentor via grant or other means.
6. While employed as a GA, students may not hold other employment at the University of Arizona or elsewhere which involves 10 hours per week or more without prior, written approval from the Director of Graduate Studies.