Department of Mathematics

Graduate Student Handbook

2010-2011
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Mission Statement

The Department of Mathematics at Brigham Young University serves the university community and furthers the university’s mission through the pursuit of excellence in teaching, scholarship and service.

We offer a first-rate education to students, preparing them for career success in both academics and industry. Such an education inspires students, intellectually enabling them to employ critical analysis, logical deduction, thoughtful synthesis and insightful problem solving skills in any career path.

We extend the frontiers of mathematical knowledge in ways that involve students and colleagues, support the undergraduate major and graduate programs of the department, contribute to our understanding of the universe and the nature of truth, and bring positive recognition to the university.

Graduate Programs

The Department of Mathematics has approximately thirty graduate students, most of who are supported by teaching assistantships. These students receive help with tuition as well as a stipend for the teaching support they provide in college algebra and calculus.

Two degrees are offered through the Department of Mathematics: Mathematics—MS; and Mathematics—PhD.

MS students study mathematics courses in preparation for careers in business, industry, government, or education. Other students use a master’s degree in mathematics in preparation for a doctoral degree in mathematics or a closely related discipline or a discipline where technical competence is appreciated. Master’s students graduate in an average of two years.
The department supports from 15-20 PhD students. Designed for gifted and dedicated students, the program requires about four years past a master’s degree. The department has special strength in the areas of applied mathematics, algebraic geometry, geometric analysis, dynamical systems, number theory, geometric and low-dimensional topology, mathematical biology, and group theory.

Mathematics Department

With an enrollment of nearly 30,000 full-time students, Brigham Young University, founded in 1875 as Brigham Young Academy, is one of the nation’s largest private universities and ranks 7th in the nation among all undergraduate institutions for the number of alumni who successfully complete a PhD in mathematics or statistics.

The faculty of the Brigham Young University Mathematics Department includes some of the most renowned instructors, researchers, and mentors in the nation. Our faculty has received numerous prestigious awards and continues to be recognized for their research and creative endeavors, innovations and discoveries, excellence as teachers and advisors, and for their outstanding service in Department and University appointments.

Over 50% of our faculty members have received university, college or national teaching and research awards for a total of 15 who have received teaching awards and 17 who have received research awards.

Students from the Math Department placed 24th of 546 colleges in the 2009 Putnam Mathematical Competition, an annual competition for the brightest mathematical student minds in the country.

Each fall, the BYU Mathematics Department offers a career and internship talk series for students. We invite 5-8 guest speakers who talk about internships and careers opportunities for mathematics majors. Past speakers have included a lawyer, a doctor, an actuary, an operations researcher at communications firm, a senior scientist at a pharmaceutical company, a mathematician at Lawrence Livermore National Lab, the president of a computer company, and a financial planner at
Goldman Sachs. These presentations have been very popular with an average attendance of about 200 people.

Mathematics is central to life in a technological society. The rigor and discipline required to excel in mathematics develop skills that are in constant demand. Therefore, graduates obtain positions in a wide variety of business, governmental, and industrial enterprises. Mathematics majors are also sought after by professional schools of law, medicine, and management. Mathematical experience beyond basic calculus enhances the life and capabilities of every intellectually curious student.

**BYU Location**

Brigham Young University is located in Provo, Utah. Provo is 45 miles south of Salt Lake City, a major metropolitan area. Salt Lake City is home of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Utah Jazz, the Utah Symphony, and a large number of other attractions.

**Religious Environment**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sponsors BYU to provide a university education in an atmosphere that nurtures spiritual growth and a strong conviction of the divinity of Jesus Christ. Church programs are closely correlated at all levels with the activities of the university, and students will find many opportunities to grow spiritually.

There are about twenty-five other religious denominations represented in the BYU student body. These students are encouraged to attend a congregation of their faith in the surrounding area.

**University Devotionals**

University devotionals are held throughout the year on Tuesdays at 11:05 a.m. They provide an inspirational and integrative part of the university experience. Devotional speakers, selected from the General Authorities and other leaders of the Church and university personnel, come to teach the gospel and affirm the spiritual dimension of the university experience for students, faculty, and staff.

**University Forums**

University forums are held on selected Tuesdays at 11:05 a.m. and are designed to enrich the general education experience. Speakers are noted authorities in the arts, sciences, humanities, media, and government, chosen for their contributions to their field and their ability to inspire and communicate. Participation in these assemblies and the associated question-and-answer sessions prompts inquiry into significant intellectual, cultural, and social issues and helps lay the foundation for lifelong learning.

**Harold B. Lee Library**

The Harold B. Lee Library collection numbers over eight million volumes, including books, periodicals, government documents, microfilm, and other non-print items. The library’s Web-based catalog contains numerous full-text databases and many electronic indexes to other sources.

The library is a depository for United State government documents and regularly receives publications of state and local governments. The Religion and Family History Library supports family history and genealogy through an extensive collection of microfilm, microfiche, and online resources. L. Tom Perry Special Collections houses non-circulating books and manuscripts related to Mormonism, western Americana, incunabula, Victorian and Edwardian literature, historical manuscripts and photographs, motion pictures, and many other preserved items for research and use.
Cultural Environment

Students can immerse themselves in culture at BYU through the Performing Arts Series, Museum of Art, and Museum of Peoples and Cultures.

Athletic Facilities

BYU’s athletic facilities are among the best in the nation. The Richards Building has facilities for racquetball, volleyball, basketball, aerobics, dance, and swimming. The Smith Fieldhouse houses ball courts, weight rooms, an indoor track, and a west annex big enough for spring batting practice.

The Great Outdoors

The Wasatch Mountains overlook BYU on the east, and Utah Lake lies to the west. Within an hour’s drive are several canyons and ski resorts; six national parks are only a half day away. Outdoor gear can be rented on campus for everything from skiing to windsurfing.
University Application Requirements

Admission to graduate study is highly selective and is granted to a specific program for a specific semester or term. As a minimum, applicants who wish to be considered for admission must do the following:

U.S. Applicants

1. Submit a complete application before the application deadline. An application is not considered complete until the application fee has been paid and all official transcripts, letters of recommendation, the statement of intent, and the confidential report are in, as well as parts A and D of the admissions application.

2. Agree to maintain university standards of personal conduct.

3. Have received or be about to receive a baccalaureate degree from an accredited U.S. or Canadian university. The Office of Graduate Studies must receive an official transcript showing that the degree has been conferred. Without such verification, registration will not be permitted beyond the first semester. U.S. students with a degree from a foreign university equivalent to an American baccalaureate must submit official transcripts from all institutions attended and an accompanying certified translation.

4. Have earned at least a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 semester hours of course work.

5. All applicants for whom English is not the native language: Submit evidence of proficiency in English. A score of at least 580 on the TOEFL. To be competitive for financial support a TOEFL score of at least 600 or a computer equivalent score of at least 237 is preferred.

6. Satisfy departmental requirements for consideration. See all the sections under Mathematics Department Application and Admission Requirements.
International Applicants (all non-U.S.)

1. Submit a complete application before the application deadline. An application is not considered complete until the application fee has been paid and all official transcripts, official evidence of degrees earned, letters of recommendation (Part C), the statement of intent, official TOEFL score, financial certification, and the Code of Honor commitment and confidential report (Part B) are in, as well as Parts A and D of the admissions application.

2. Agree to maintain university standards of personal conduct.

3. Submit official transcripts from each institution attended, with accompanying certified English translation.

4. Submit a copy of a diploma (preparation completed at least equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s degree), with accompanying official English translation.

5. Have earned at least a 3.0 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) for all previous undergraduate work.

6. Submit a TOEFL score of at least 580. To be competitive for financial support, a TOEFL score of at least 600 or a computer equivalent score of at least 237 is preferred. This is required of all applicants for whom English is not the native language. Students with a bachelor’s degree from a U.S. or Canadian university are usually exempt from this requirement.

7. Submit a completed Financial Certification and Visa Information form with supporting documents. Applicants must provide proof of sufficient funds for the total length of their program of study.

8. Satisfy departmental requirements for consideration. See all the sections under Mathematics Department Application and Admission Requirements.

Note: Brigham Young University will not process applications from applicants entering the United States with a B visa. An admitted student will receive an I-20 or IAP-66 form (Certificate of Eligibility) with the official letter of acceptance; the I-20 and IAP-66 are used to obtain a student visa (F-1 or J-1).
Financial Aid

Most of the graduate students in mathematics are supported by teaching assistantships. The usual load for a teaching assistant is twenty hours a week. Teaching assistants currently receive a stipend of $15,000 for MS and $17,500 for Ph.D. per calendar year. Some research or travel funding is available for those students who are making good progress toward a degree, and who have submitted a program of study and have an advisor’s endorsement.

To be considered for financial support, applications should be submitted by March 1 for fall semester and September 15 for winter semester.

Guidelines for the Continuation of Financial Support

Continued financial support is recommended for graduate teaching assistants who are making satisfactory progress in an approved program of study and who are judged satisfactory in their teaching duties. Quality teaching performance is essential for continuation. Incompetent teaching will not be supported, and cases of conspicuous irresponsibility or neglect will be cause for immediate termination.

Employment Outside the Mathematics Department

You should find your combined obligations in teaching and studying to be a full-time undertaking. The Department of Mathematics does not permit teaching assistants to assume any additional form of employment.
Teaching Loads and Tuition Waivers

The normal teaching load for a teaching assistant is twenty hours per week. Duties include teaching, grading, holding office hours, recitations, and working in the Math Lab.

Full tuition for mathematics courses will generally be provided in addition for teaching and research assistants for fall and winter semesters, provided they make adequate progress in their program of study and regularly attend the graduate seminar. Tuition may also be paid in spring and summer, depending on department budget constraints.

The department will not pay additional tuition for courses that are not on the student’s program of study. For example, a student enrolled in 6 hours of mathematics courses and 3 hours of physical education courses will have tuition paid only for the 6 hours of mathematics courses. However, a student who is enrolled full-time (9 hours) in mathematics courses will have full-time tuition paid by the mathematics department. Thus that student may take additional non-mathematics courses that do not interfere with performing other responsibilities without charge.
Tuition

A significant portion of the cost of operating the university is paid from the tithes of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Therefore, students and families of students who are tithe-paying members of the Church have already made a contribution to the operation of the university. Because others have not contributed in this way, they are charged a higher rate of tuition, as shown below. This practice is similar in principle to that of state universities that generally charge nonresidents at a higher rate than residents.

Tuition per semester 2010-2011
http://home.byu.edu/webapp/finserve/content/page/Tuition.html

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full-Time</th>
<th>LDS: $2,790</th>
<th>Non-LDS: $5,580</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part-Time (per credit hour)</td>
<td>LDS: $310</td>
<td>Non-LDS: $620</td>
<td></td>
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Teaching and research assistants receive a tuition scholarship for mathematics courses fall and winter semesters if they are making good progress toward completion of their program.

Estimated Expenses for 2010-2011 full-time graduate study
http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/admissions/costsfinaid.php?i=1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Single</th>
<th>Married</th>
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<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Supplies (2 semesters):</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room and Board (2 semesters):</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Personal Expenses (2 semesters):</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Insurance:</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$2,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Living Expenses:</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>$10,752</td>
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Insurance
BYU requires all three-quarter and full-time students (registered for 9 credit hours or more for a semester; 4.5 credit hours for a term, including Salt Lake Center hours) to have appropriate medical coverage for the duration of their enrollment at BYU. You must have coverage the entire time you are a continuing BYU student, as well as during any summers you take off or other short-term breaks from classes. For current costs and specific coverage, contact the Student Health Center: P.O. Box 24800, Provo, UT 84602 (801) 422-2771.

Housing
Student housing is available both on campus and in the surrounding communities. Policies have been established with campus residence halls and with off-campus landlords to integrate living experiences with the complete educational experience.

On-campus Housing:
http://www.byu.edu/oncampushousing/home/index.shtml

Off-campus Housing:
http://housing.byu.edu/offcampus/

Student Family Housing:
http://www.byu.edu/familyhousing/home/index.shtml

Program Purpose and Objectives
The general objective of the Department of Mathematics at Brigham Young University, as related to the degrees offered by the Department, is to teach mathematics and mathematical thinking at the level appropriate to each student. This enables students to employ critical analysis, thoughtful synthesis, logical deduction, and insightful problem-solving, not only within mathematics itself but in a wide variety of natural and man-made situations.

**MS objectives**

The Master of Science program is specifically designed to help students progress toward being independent mathematical thinkers and participate in advancing the frontiers of mathematical knowledge. The program also prepares students for positions in business and industry that require advanced mathematics skills, critical analysis, thoughtful synthesis, and insightful and independent problem solving.

**PhD Objectives**

The specific purpose of the Doctor of Philosophy program in Mathematics is to prepare students for a career in research and teaching at the university level. It also prepares them for professions that require independent mathematical research, advanced mathematical knowledge, critical analysis, thoughtful synthesis, and insightful and independent problem solving. It gives students an opportunity to become full contributors to the important and exciting process of extending the frontiers of mathematical knowledge.

The underlying philosophy of the program is that graduate-level mathematics is both enabling and ennobling. Mathematical knowledge, logical reasoning, and the ability to solve problems and discover mathematical truths are powerful and important skills that promote student success in a wide range of academic, professional, or business-related careers.
But more importantly, deep and careful mathematical thought expands both the mind and the soul. It increases understanding of many things, both physical and spiritual. Our purpose in this program is to enrich the spiritual and temporal lives of our students by sharing the beauty and power of mathematics with them.

The accomplishment of these objectives requires the students to gain a deep understanding of and appreciation for mathematics, its versatility, depth, and power. They must also understand important ideas of the main mathematical sub-disciplines and the relationship of mathematics to other subjects. Finally, students should be able to work independently, without the direct supervision and guidance of a senior mathematician. The development of this independence is certainly begun at the undergraduate and masters levels, but for most students it can only be fully achieved at the doctoral level. Although coursework plays some role in the requirements for the Ph.D. in mathematics, the most important element is the dissertation, a significant and substantial work of original mathematical research.

**Specific goals of the programs**

**MS:** The specific goals of the MS in Mathematics are to help each individual student
- Achieve an understanding of graduate-level mathematics, including several areas such as Analysis, Algebra, Topology, and Applied Mathematics.
- Achieve depth and application in a specialized area.
- Develop mathematical research skills.
- Develop problem-solving skills applicable to a wide variety of settings.
- Learn to communicate complex ideas effectively and demonstrate sound reasoning in both quantitative and qualitative settings.
- Acquire the mathematical foundation necessary to enter a variety of opportunities in occupations and further schooling.
- Relate knowledge of mathematics and mathematical processes to physical, natural, and social sciences, humanities, and other human endeavors.
- Develop a reasoned relationship between secular knowledge and spiritual insight that fosters faith and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and leads to lifelong learning and service.

**PhD:** The specific goals of the Ph.D. in Mathematics are to help each individual student
- Achieve a broad understanding of graduate-level mathematics, including several areas such as Analysis, Algebra, Topology, and Applied Mathematics.
- Achieve depth and a thorough knowledge of current developments in a specialized area.
- Develop mathematical research skills at the doctoral level, discovering significant new results in mathematics or solving outstanding problems.
- Develop expository skills that will allow communication of future research results with the academic world.
- Learn to communicate complex ideas effectively and to reason soundly in both quantitative and qualitative settings.
- Acquire the expertise necessary to continue to contribute to the frontiers of mathematical knowledge
- Relate knowledge of mathematics and mathematical processes to physical, natural, and social sciences, humanities, and other human endeavors.
- Develop a reasoned relationship between secular knowledge and spiritual insight that fosters faith and commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ and leads to lifelong learning and service.
Program Requirements and Offerings
The Department of Mathematics offers a master’s and a doctoral program. The Master of Science (M.S.) program prepares students for positions in business and industry, and also provides preparation for further graduate study leading to a doctoral degree at Brigham Young University or elsewhere.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program prepares students for a career in research and teaching at the university level. The Ph.D. program in Mathematics was approved in 1986 when the Department received a program improvement grant to fund teaching assistantships in mathematics. The current research areas of the faculty include: algebraic geometry, applied mathematics, nonlinear PDEs, dynamical systems, combinatorics, matrix theory and analysis, geometric and low-dimensional topology, geometric and combinatorial group theory, number theory, numerical methods, mathematical biology, and partial differential equations.

With small classes and individual attention, the Department supports high quality research programs in the selected areas.

**Forms**
All forms needed for graduate studies may be downloaded from the following website:
http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/forms/forms.php

**Mathematics M.S. Degree**

**Approved Courses (Both Thesis and Non-Thesis Programs)**
Approved graduate mathematics courses include all classes numbered 500 and above, with the exception of Math 500. All courses must be passed with a grade of C+ or better. No credit is given for prerequisite courses such as Math 342 or Math 372.
Students are required to submit a program of study after their first semester of study. The study list form may be found at http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/images/forms/ADV_Form_3.pdf

Note: The minimum registration requirement is six credit hours per year. Students not meeting this requirement will be dropped from the program.

Thesis Program Requirements
1. Credit hours (30): Minimum 24 course work hours in approved graduate mathematics with a grade of C+ or better in each, including 12 hours in courses numbered 600 or above and 6 thesis hours (Math 699R).
2. Examination: Pass a written master’s examination. Students are allowed to take the examination 3 times during their first year of graduate study. A student is allowed to take the master’s exam as an undergraduate and not have this attempt count as one of the 3 allotted for the first year of graduate study.
3. Thesis
4. Oral defense of thesis

Non-Thesis Program Requirements
1. Credit hours: Minimum 30 course work hours in approved graduate mathematics with a grade of C+ or better in each, including 18 hours in courses numbered 600 or above and two hours for the project (698R). No credit is given for prerequisite courses such as Math 342 or Math 372.
2. Examination: Pass a written master’s examination. Students are allowed to take the examination 3 times during their first year of graduate study. A student is allowed to take the master’s exam as an undergraduate and not have this attempt count as one of the 3 allotted for the first year of graduate study.

3. Project, Paper and Presentation: Complete a project (Math 698R) focused on an area of advanced mathematics, write a paper about the project, and present a 45-minute talk based on the paper.

M.S. Degree Recommended Schedule of Study
Below is a recommended schedule of courses for students in the master’s program. Students should consult with their advisor to determine whether some deviation from this plan is better suited to their individual needs. The standard load for a student with a teaching or research assistantship is 9 credit hours of graduate-level mathematics courses per semester. Students who enroll in fewer mathematics courses may have trouble completing their program requirements in a timely manner. Students not enrolled in at least 6 hours of mathematics courses per semester are generally not making satisfactory progress toward completion of their degree and may have their funding reduced or their degree candidacy terminated.

Semester 1 (Fall)
• Take Math 541, Math 671, and Math 553.
• Attend the weekly graduate seminar.
• Choose an advisory committee and prepare a study list.

Semester 2 (Winter)
• Take Math 540, Math 672, and Math 554, or other courses as directed by your advisor.
• Attend the weekly graduate seminar.
• Pass the master’s exam.

Spring/Summer
• Begin the thesis or project.
• Take reading courses relevant to the thesis or project, as directed by your advisory committee.
Semester 3 (Fall)
- Take at least 3 hours of 600-level courses.
- Take 6 more hours of courses according to your study list (some may be thesis or project hours).
- Attend a weekly research seminar as directed by your advisor.
- Continue work on your thesis or project.

Semester 4 (Winter)
- Take at least 3 hours of 600-level courses.
- Take 6 more hours of courses according to your study list (some may be thesis or project hours).
- Attend a weekly research seminar as directed by your advisor.
- Finish and defend the thesis or project.

Master’s Examination
The content of the examination is based on Algebra (Math 371, 372 and 313) and Analysis (Math 341, 342 and 352). Previous exams may be used as study guides.

Students are allowed to take the examination 3 times during their first year of graduate study. A student is allowed to take the master’s exam as an undergraduate and not have this attempt count as one of the 3 allotted for the first year of graduate study.

Guidelines for M.S. Degree Projects and Theses

Content
A mathematics MS project should entail learning mathematics not normally taught in graduate or undergraduate classes. It may be of an expository nature or may involve the investigation of mathematical structures in some depth. It does not need to include original research, but it should include some proofs.

A mathematics MS thesis should be a substantial mathematical work. This does not refer to length, but rather to content. Students should pursue original work sufficient for publication in some kind of college mathematics journal. The thesis should be the work of the student and should not be written primarily by the advisor. Other than original work the thesis might be an account of work at the frontier of research in a particular area, perhaps including new examples worked out in detail. The content of the thesis should be demanding for a mathematician from an area different from the area of the thesis.

Computational/algorithmic projects or theses are also possible; however, the mathematical content needs to be the core of the writing.

In both cases the students should bite off too much rather than too little. Students should be stretched and will be called to account for the logical content of their written work. They should contribute in some way to mathematics and not just reiterate what they have already learned.

Students should be aware of the limitations of their methodology (e.g. statistical significance) yet also be aware of the possibilities for amplification of their results. They should have some idea about how what they have done fits into the general subject, i.e., context is also important.

Presentation or Defense
The student should give a presentation in which the essential ideas of the written work are exposed and put into context. The student should be able to answer straightforward questions on the basic parts of their work, indicating a thorough understanding. The talk should include some proofs.
Mathematics Ph.D. Degree

Requirements for Doctoral Degree
1. **Credit Hours** (54): Minimum 36 coursework hours in mathematics courses numbered 600 or above with a grade of B or better in each plus 18 dissertation hours (Math 799R). No credit is given for mathematics courses with numbers lower than 510.

2. **Required Courses**: Complete at least 3 hours each in Algebra, Analysis, Applied Mathematics, and Geometry/Topology.

3. **Examinations**:
   a. **Written Examinations**: At the beginning of the second year after admission to the Ph.D. program, the student is required to pass examinations in three of the four areas of Algebra, Analysis, Applied Mathematics, and Geometry/Topology. Four hours are allotted to each examination. A failed examination may be repeated once at the beginning of the Winter semester of the student's second year, after which permission must be obtained from the department graduate committee to retake the examination. Passed examinations do not need to be repeated. Syllabi are available for each examination.

   b. **Oral Examination**: A student must pass an oral qualifying examination covering the background necessary for research in a specific area. The student, having chosen a research area and having a dissertation advisor approved, will, with the advisor, outline suitable examination topics. These topics must be approved by an examination committee of three (including the advisor) appointed by the department graduate committee, which conducts the examination.

   c. **Defense of Dissertation**: A final oral defense of the dissertation is conducted by a faculty committee consisting of the student's research advisor, two other readers of the dissertation (one of whom may be an outside examiner), and two other members of the faculty.

4. **Dissertation**: A student seeking a doctor of philosophy degree must register for and complete a minimum of 18 hours of dissertation credit. No more than 18 hours may count toward the 54 hours required, and all 18 hours may not be taken in one term or semester. Registration for dissertation credit and work on the dissertation must be concurrent.

Ph.D. Degree Recommended Schedule of Study

The following schedule is recommended for teaching assistants in the Ph.D. program. Except where there are extenuating circumstances, teaching assistants who fall more than one year behind this schedule should not expect their teaching assistantships to be renewed. Students who have strong potential but lack adequate preparation may petition to have a year zero added in which they complete their preparation for the Ph.D. program. During this year, their teaching duties and pay will be similar to master's students. Students who have passed fewer than two of the three required qualifying examinations by February of their second year will not be allowed to continue. Students who have passed only two of the three examinations by February of the second year may request special permission to continue for an additional year by submitting a written request to the student's graduate committee. The student's committee reviews the request and submits a written recommendation to the departmental graduate committee. In addition, students who have completed an M.S. degree at BYU are required to pass at least one examination by February of their first year of study in the Ph.D. program in order to continue beyond the first year.
Year 1
- Take three 600-level yearlong mathematics sequences. It is suggested that these sequences include Analysis (640-641) and Algebra (671-672).
- Attend the weekly graduate seminar (or a research seminar, as directed by your advisor).
- Select an area of specialty, an advisor, and advisory committee.
- Prepare a study list in consultation with your advisor (due during the first year, and no later than the first week of second year).
- Pass three written qualifying examinations by the end of the year.

Year 2
- Take 9 credit hours of advanced graduate courses each semester, ideally in year-long sequences (Dissertation hours may suffice for some of these credit hours).
- Attend a weekly research seminar, as directed by your advisor.
- Complete the oral qualifying examination.

Year 3
- Continue taking advanced graduate courses.
- Actively participate in research seminars.
- Begin work toward a dissertation.

Year 4
- Devote primary attention to finishing the dissertation.
- Continue participating in advanced courses and seminars.
- Find research topics to pursue beyond a dissertation and begin to develop a long-term research plan.
- Complete the requirements for the doctoral degree.

Note: It is expected that students attend a seminar of their choice as well as colloquia throughout their programs.
Academic Sponsor

Once accepted into the graduate program, students are assigned a department sponsor who guides their first registration and individual study until the student selects an advisory committee, which is appointed in the first semester. Students should contact their academic sponsor well before their first semester of graduate study so that they can be sure to enroll in courses best suited to their individual case.

Advisor and Advisory Committee

The advisor plays a significant role in guiding the student through the program and helping the student become an independent mathematician. The advisor helps the student choose a project, thesis, or dissertation topic, and gives guidance and supervision throughout the task.

Choosing an Advisor

The main component in choosing a professor to be an advisor should be to match the student's research interests with the type and quality of research done by the professor. In order to determine the type of research currently being done by faculty members, students should attend the various seminars offered. Once a student has determined that someone has similar interests, the student should then consult with the potential advisor and ensure that the professor is willing to act as an advisor.

Advisory Committee

During the first semester, students should work with the selected advisor to arrange for the appointment of an advisory committee. Master's (thesis and non thesis) committees consist of a chair and at least two other members; doctoral committees have a chair and at least four other members. The Department may require additional members. One member must be from the minor department if a student declares a minor.
Study List

The goal of the graduate program in mathematics is for the student to become an independent mathematician. This is not accomplished by taking a random selection of courses but by carefully working with an advisory committee to create a program that has a solid mathematical foundation and meets the student’s interests.

A study list (http://www.byu.edu/gradstudies/images/forms/ADV_Form_3.pdf) must be submitted and approved by the student’s advisory committee.

Master’s students should complete the program of study under the direction of their graduate committee during the student’s first semester, and in no case later than the third week of the second semester.

Doctoral students should receive approval and submit their program of study during the first year, and in no case later than the third week of the beginning of the second year of study.

Financial support will be reduced and may be withdrawn if a study list is not submitted on time. The Graduate Study List gives the approved courses of study for the graduate degree. It is possible at any time to amend the study list form for courses not yet taken. The study list is obtained from the department graduate secretary. After the list has been filled out and the appropriate signatures have been obtained, the list should be returned to the department graduate secretary.

In addition to the official study list, by the end of November of each year, students should submit a tentative schedule of when they plan to take each remaining course on their study list. This allows the graduate committee to ensure that graduate course offerings for the coming year will meet students’ needs.
**Graduation Deadlines**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 24</td>
<td>Jan 28</td>
<td>Apr 29</td>
<td>May 27</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Last day to apply for graduation online in AIM. Go to byu.edu→Route Y→School→Apply for Graduation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 8</td>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>June 10</td>
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<td>Last day for departments to accept a student’s graduation application in AIM (GRADQ and ADV01).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>May 20</td>
<td>June 17</td>
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<td>Last day to schedule a final oral examination (defense of dissertation, thesis, or selected project) with department using the Department Scheduling of Final Oral Examination form (ADV Form 8c), and submit copies of your document to your graduate committee.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Mar 4</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>July 1</td>
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<td>Last day to have a final oral examination. Note: Ample time should be allowed to make corrections in dissertations, theses, or selected projects after the final oral examination and before the deadline for submitting the ETD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>June 10</td>
<td>July 8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Last day to submit dissertation, thesis, or selected project with the Approval for submission of dissertation, thesis, or selected project form (ADV Form 8d) to the college dean for signature.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Upon receipt of the signed ADV Form 8d, the ETD must be submitted for electronic format approvals through the ETD submission website (http://etd.byu.edu/). After the department has approved the ETD, the dean’s office will review and approve the ETD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dec 3</th>
<th>Mar 18</th>
<th>June 16</th>
<th>July 15</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This is the last day the student may take the ADV Form 8d to the Library Administration Office (2060 HBLL) once the ETD appears in the Library Administration Office ETD queue. The student then takes the validated ADV Form 8d to Graduate Studies (105 FPH).</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Aug 11</td>
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<td>Graduation—University Commencement</td>
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<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>Apr 22</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Aug 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Graduation—College Convocations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Graduation

The Math Department encourages students to complete their degree programs in a timely fashion. An MS degree is expected to take two years to complete while a PhD should take four years. We understand that unavoidable delays may occur, plans may change, and personal challenges may arise. However, taking too much time to graduate reflects poorly on the student, advisors, and department. Students should not extend the time it takes to graduate.

Evaluation Process

I. The Math Department will monitor graduate student progress twice a year (fall semester and spring term).
   A. The graduate committee will review the progress of each student.
   B. Students will be rated as making satisfactory, marginal, or unsatisfactory progress.
      1. If marginal or unsatisfactory progress is noted, students will be notified in writing what they need to do, when it needs to be accomplished, and whom to contact for help to demonstrate satisfactory progress.
      2. Students who receive an unsatisfactory evaluation will not be eligible to obtain financial support.
   C. Students will be notified in writing of their progress.
   D. Students making marginal or unsatisfactory progress will be informed by certified letter with return receipt:
      1. What they need to do to make satisfactory progress.
      2. When each task needs to be accomplished.
      3. Which faculty member(s) they should contact for more information or support.
      4. What will happen if these tasks are not accomplished (e.g., an unsatisfactory rating for the next semester, termination from the program, etc.).

II. Definitions of ratings:

A. Satisfactory progress includes the following:
   1. On track in all things to successfully graduate within the proper time frame.
   2. No obvious roadblocks or concerns.
B. Marginal progress includes the following:
   1. Failure to submit program of study form within the first two semesters.
   2. Failure to establish a graduate committee within the first two semesters.
   3. Registering for thesis hours but doing little or no work.
   4. Failure to submit an approved thesis/dissertation prospectus within the first two semesters.
   5. Minimal contact with chair or advisory committee members.
C. Unsatisfactory progress includes the following:
   1. Earning an unacceptable grade in a study list course.
   2. Failure to submit a program of study within the first two semesters.
   3. Failure to establish a graduate committee within the first two semesters.
   4. Failing a course.
   5. Registering for thesis hours but doing little or no work.
   6. Failure to submit an approved thesis/dissertation prospectus within the first two semesters.
   7. Minimal contact with the chair or advisory committee members.
   8. Not progressing at a rate necessary to finish all courses in a timely manner.
   9. Not meeting the requirements set forth in a previous marginal evaluation.
10. Poor performance in research.
11. Lack of ethics.

III. If a student receives a marginal and an unsatisfactory or two unsatisfactory ratings in succession the department will:
   A. Terminate the student’s program at the conclusion of the semester.
   OR
   B. Submit a petition to Graduate Studies making a convincing case that the student be given another semester to demonstrate satisfactory progress. A copy of a contract listing student and faculty responsibilities and a time line should be attached.

IV. If a student receives a marginal rating in one semester and is not making satisfactory progress in the next semester, the student will be rated as making unsatisfactory progress. A student will not be rated as making marginal progress in two sequential semesters. Failing to correct marginal progress is unsatisfactory.
The Graduate Student Advisory Committee exists to improve the graduate program by:

1. Advising graduate students concerning classes, requirements for degrees, and other aspects of the graduate program.
2. Making recommendations concerning the graduate program to the Department of Mathematics.
3. Assisting the Department in making its policies and requirements fully understood by the graduate students.
4. Organizing the weekly graduate seminar.

This committee consists of three graduate students, elected in the fall of each year by the mathematics graduate students. If there are not sufficient nominations, the Graduate Committee may nominate or select members of this committee.
Courses and Seminars
Seminars

Part of becoming an independent mathematician is becoming exposed to a broad range of mathematical research as well as studying some specific areas in greater depth. It is expected that students attend colloquia and a seminar of their choice. Students receiving tuition awards are expected to attend the graduate seminar or, with the approval of their advisor, a research seminar at least 11 weeks per semester.

The graduate seminar is a weekly seminar organized by the Graduate Student Advisory Committee. Its purpose is to acquaint students with the faculty and their research, prepare students for the department colloquia, and to permit students an opportunity to share their research with other students. As students advance in the program, it is generally expected that they will attend a regular research seminar instead of or in addition to the graduate seminars.

The research seminars usually include the following:
- Stochastic Differential Equations
- Dynamical Systems
- Algebraic Geometry
- Number theory
- Partial Differential Equations
- Mathematical Physics
- Geometric Analysis
- Topology

Other seminars also run from time to time. Please see the Seminar Page for more information.
https://math.byu.edu/info/semHome.php

Courses

We have 20 core courses that are regularly scheduled and that are mainly for first year students. The remaining courses (about 10) are determined according to the needs of the current graduate students.
Core Courses

Twenty courses will be taught every year:
510, 511 Numerical Analysis
532 Complex Analysis
540, 541 Real Analysis
543, 544 Probability
553, 554 Topology
570 Matrix Analysis
586, 587 Number Theory
634, 635 ODEs/Dynamical Systems
640, 641 Analysis
655, 656 Algebraic/Differential Topology
671, 672 Algebra

Non-core courses
All other courses are determined in January, seven months before the new academic year starts.

All students should submit their program of study by the end of November of their first year. Students must also submit an additional list to the secretary, giving a schedule of when they plan to take the courses in their programs of study. Students should consult with their advisors to select the most beneficial courses, and to decide when they should take them. The graduate committee uses these lists to determine which classes will be taught the next year, and to ensure that students’ coursework needs are met.

Availability of Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
<th>2011-2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Winter</td>
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<td>656</td>
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<td>675R</td>
<td>672</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Descriptions of Approved Courses

510 Numerical Methods for Linear Algebra (3)
Prerequisite: Math 343; 410; or equivalents. Numerical matrix algebra, orthogonalization and least squares methods, unsymmetric and symmetric eigenvalue problems, iterative methods, advanced solvers for partial differential equations.

511 Numerical Methods for Partial Differential Equations (3) Prerequisite: Math 303 or 447; 410; or equivalents. Finite difference and finite volume methods for partial differential equations. Stability, consistency, and convergence theory.

513R Advanced Topics in Applied Mathematics (3) Prerequisite: instructor’s consent.

521 Methods of Applied Mathematics 1 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 334 or equivalent. Possible topics include variational, integral, and partial differential equations; spectral and transform methods; nonlinear waves; Green's functions; scaling and asymptotic analysis; perturbation theory; continuum mechanics.

522 Methods of Applied Mathematics 2 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 521 or equivalent. Possible topics include variational, integral, and partial differential equations; spectral and transform methods; nonlinear waves; Green's functions; scaling and asymptotic analysis; perturbation theory; continuum mechanics.

532 Complex Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: Math 352 or instructor’s consent. Introduction to theory of complex analysis at the beginning graduate level. Topics: Cauchy integral equations, Riemann surfaces, Picard’s theorem, etc.

534 Introduction to Dynamical Systems I (3)
Prerequisite: Math 334, 341; or equivalent. Discrete dynamical systems; iterations of maps on the line and the plane; bifurcation theory; chaos, Julia sets, and fractals. Computational experimentation.

540 Linear Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: Math 342 or equivalent. Normed vector spaces and linear maps between them.

541 Real Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: Math 341; 314 or 342; or equivalents. Rigorous treatment of differentiation and integration theory, Lebesgue measure, Banach spaces.

543 Advanced Probability 1 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 314 or equivalent. Foundations of the modern theory of probability with applications. Probability spaces, random variables, independence, conditioning, expectation, generating functions, and Markov chains.

544 Advanced Probability 2 (3)

547 Partial Differential Equations 1 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 334, 342; or equivalents. Methods of analysis for hyperbolic, elliptic, and parabolic equations, including characteristic manifolds, distributions, Green's functions, maximum principles and Fourier analysis.
548 Partial Differential Equations 2 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 547. Tools for PDEs and special topics: spherical means, method of descent, subharmonic functions, Hamilton-Jacobi equations, Riemann invariants, conservation laws for linear and non-linear waves.

553 Foundations of Topology 1 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 451 or instructor’s consent. Naive set theory, topological spaces, product spaces, subspaces, continuous functions, connectedness, compactness, countability, separation axioms, metrization, complete metric spaces, function spaces, and Baire spaces.

554 Foundations of Topology 2 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 553 or instructor’s consent. Fundamental group, retractions and fixed points, homotopy types, separation theorems, classification of surfaces, Seifert-van Kampen Theorem, classification of covering spaces, and applications to group theory.

561 Introduction to Algebraic Geometry 1 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 671 or concurrent enrollment. Basic definitions and theorems on affine, projective, and quasi-projective varieties.

562 Introduction to Algebraic Geometry 2 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 561. Local properties of quasi-projective varieties. Divisors and differential forms.

565 Differential Geometry (3)
Prerequisite: Math 342 or equivalent. A rigorous treatment of the theory of differential geometry.

570 Matrix Analysis (3)
Prerequisite: Math 302 or 313; or equivalents. Special classes of matrices, canonical forms, matrix and vector norms, localization of eigenvalues, matrix functions, applications.

586 Introduction to Algebraic Number Theory (3)
Prerequisite: Math 372 or equivalent. Algebraic integers; different and discriminant; decomposition of primes; class group; Dirichlet unit theorem; Dedekind zeta function; cyclotomic fields; valuations; completions.

587 Introduction to Analytic Number Theory (3)
Prerequisite: Math 352 or equivalent. Arithmetical functions; distribution of primes; Dirichlet characters; Dirichlet's theorem; Gauss sums; primitive roots; Dirichlet L-functions; Riemann zeta-function; prime number theorem; partitions.

621 Matrix Theory 1 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 570. Symmetric matrices, spectral graph theory, interlacing, the Laplacian matrix of a graph.

622 Matrix Theory 2 (3)
Prerequisite: Math 621. Research topics in combinatorial matrix theory.

634 Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations (3)
Prerequisite: Math 334, 341; or equivalents. A rigorous treatment of the theory of differential equations.

635 Theory of Ordinary Differential Equations (3)
Prerequisite: Math 634. A rigorous treatment of the theory of differential equations.
640 Nonlinear Analysis (3)
Differential calculus in normed spaces, fixed point theory, and abstract critical point theory.

641 Functions of a Real Variable (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 541 or instructor's consent. Abstract measure and integration theory; L(p) spaces; measures on topological and Euclidean spaces.

643R Special Topics in Analysis (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 641 or instructor's consent. Advanced topics in analysis drawn from pure and applied mathematics.

644 Harmonic Analysis (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 532, 541. Harmonic analysis on the torus and in Euclidean space; pointwise and norm convergence of Fourier series and functional-analytic aspects of Fourier transforms emphasized.

647 Theory of Partial Differential Equations 1 (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 541, 547.

648 Theory of Partial Differential Equations 2 (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 647.

651, 652 Topology 1, 2 (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 553, 554 for 651; 651 for 652. Advanced topics in topology. Topics may include, but are not limited to, piecewise linear topology, 3-manifold theory, homotopy theory, differential topology, Riemannian geometry, and geometric group theory.

655, 656 Algebraic Topology 1, 2 (3)
*Prerequisite:* 655 instructor's consent; 655 for 656.

663 Algebraic Geometry 1 (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 676 or concurrent enrollment. Basic definitions and theorems on varieties, sheaves, and schemes.

664 Algebraic Geometry 2 (3)

671, 672 Algebra (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 372 or equivalent for 671; Math 671 for 672.

675R Special Topics in Algebra (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 672.

676 Commutative Algebra (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 672. Commutative rings, modules, tensor products, localization, primary decomposition, Noetherian and Artinian rings, application to algebraic geometry and algebraic number theory.

677 Homological Algebra
*Prerequisite:* Math 672. Chain complexes, derived functors, cohomology of groups, ext and tor, spectral sequences, etc. Application to algebraic geometry and algebraic number theory.

686R Topics in Algebraic Number Theory (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 372, 487 and instructor's consent. Current topics of research interest.

687R Topics in Analytic Number Theory (3)
*Prerequisite:* Math 352, 487; or equivalents. Current topics of research interest.

695R Readings in Mathematics (1-2)

698R Master's Project (2)
699R Master’s Thesis (1-9)

751R Advanced Special Topics in Topology (3)
Prerequisite: Math 652. Current topics in topology of research interest.

799R Doctoral Dissertation (Arr.)

Graduate Faculty
Algebraic Geometry
   Tyler Jarvis: Algebraic Curves, Moduli Spaces
   William E. Lang: Algebraic Surfaces

Applied Mathematics, Nonlinear PDEs and Dynamical Systems
   Lennard Bakker: Dynamical Systems and Celestial Mechanics
   Shue-Sum Chow: Numerical Analysis
   Todd Fisher: Dynamical Systems
   Scott Glasgow: Optics: classical and quantum
   Christopher P. Grant: Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations, Dynamical Systems
   Jeffrey Humpherys: Applied Mathematics, Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations, Dynamical Systems
   Kening Lu: Applied Mathematics, Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations, Dynamical Systems
   Tiancheng Ouyang: Nonlinear Partial Differential Equations
   Vianey Villamizar: Numerical Solution of PDEs, Wave Scattering, Asymptotic Methods
   Robin Roundy: Mathematical models for controlling inventories, planning production, and managing supply chains.

Applications of Mathematics to Biology and Medicine
   John Dallon: Mathematical Biology

Combinatorics and Matrix Theory
   Wayne W. Barrett: Combinatorial Matrix Theory, Positive Definite Matrices
   Rodney W. Forcade: Combinatorics, Number Theory, Graph Theory
   L. Kirk Tolman: Ordered Rings and Fields, Graph Theory

Geometric Topology, Geometric Group Theory, Topology, Combinatorial Group Theory
   James W. Cannon: Geometric Topology, Geometric Group Theory, Discrete Conformal Mapping
   Gregory Conner: Geometric Group Theory, Topology, Combinatorial Group Theory
   Michael Dorff: Minimal surfaces, Geometric Function Theory
   Denise Halverson: Geometric Topology
   Stephen Humphries: Low-dimensional Topology, Group Theory
   Jessica Purcell: Three-dimensional manifolds, hyperbolic geometry, and knot theory.
   Eric Swenson: Geometric Group Theory, Topology
   David G. Wright: Geometric Topology, Mathematics Education

Number Theory
   Roger Baker: Number Theory
   David A. Cardon: Analytic Number Theory, Algebraic Number Theory, Automorphic Forms
   Jasbir S. Chahal: Number Theory
   Darrin Doud: Number Theory
   Rodney W. Forcade: Combinatorics, Number Theory, Graph Theory
   Paul Jenkins: Number Theory, Modular Forms, Partitions
   Xian-Jin Li: Analytic Number Theory
   Pace Nielsen: Algebra, Number Theory