Mission Statement

Union’s mathematics program seeks to further students in their quest for increased understanding of Creation and the created order and to equip students to serve God, church and society through excellence in thinking and the use of mathematics. We do this through a curriculum that develops the student’s ability to think logically, analytically, and abstractly; to pursue a body of knowledge whose basis is independent of both empirical observation and culture; and to learn humility and a sense of wonder at the complexity, beauty, and applicability of mathematics.

Faculty

George Moss (2009). Associate Professor of Mathematics and Department Chair. B.S., Auburn University; Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Bryan Dawson (1998). University Professor of Mathematics. B.S. and M.S., Pittsburg State University; Ph.D., University of North Texas.

Richard Dehn (1969). Associate Professor of Mathematics. B.S., University of Memphis; M.A.T., Purdue University; M.S., University of Arkansas, Additional study, University of Wisconsin, University of Arkansas, University of Missouri-Rolla.

Chris Hail (1995). Professor of Mathematics. B.S., Campbellsville College; M.A., Morehead State University; Ed.D., University of Kentucky.

Dwayne Jennings (1981). Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science. B.S., Union University; M.S. (Mathematics) and M.S. (Computer Science), University of Memphis.

Matt Lunsford (1993). Professor of Mathematics. B.G.S., Louisiana Tech University; M.S., University of Nebraska; Ph.D., Tulane University.


Staff


Student Awards

A Departmental Award is given to the senior who places first in the Major Field Test for Mathematics as partial fulfillment of MAT 498.

The Wolfram Research Inc. Award is awarded to a freshman calculus student chosen by the Department of Mathematics based upon demonstrated outstanding achievement, enthusiasm, ingenuity, and creativity in mathematics.

Curriculum

The department offers a major in mathematics and minors in mathematics, mathematics with emphasis in statistics, and actuarial science, and an interdisciplinary minor in Computational Engineering Science. Students majoring in mathematics may select from the following tracks: mathematics, teacher licensure in mathematics for secondary education (grades 7-12), or actuarial science. The offerings of the major provide a foundation for beginning graduate study in mathematics, for entry into mathematics-related work fields, and for teaching mathematics at the secondary level. Students majoring or minoring in mathematics begin their academic credit towards the major or minor with courses numbered MAT 205 or above. Students having a four-year high school mathematics program that included trigonometry should be able to begin the calculus sequence in their first semester.

I. Major in Mathematics—35 hours

A. MAT 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 315 and 498 are required.
B. Select one: MAT 411, MAT 415.
C. Select 9 hours from junior or senior MAT courses.
D. Independent Study (MAT 495) or Departmental Special Study (MAT 395) may be used for 3 of the 9 hours required in C.
E. Prerequisites: PHY 231, and CSC 115 or 255.

II. Major in Mathematics with Discipline-Specific Honors—36 hours

A. MAT 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 315 and 498 are required.
B. Select one: MAT 411, MAT 415.
C. Select 9 hours from junior or senior MAT courses.
D. Independent Study (MAT 495) or Departmental Special Study (MAT 395) may be used for 3 of the 9 hours required in C.
E. Prerequisites: PHY 231, and CSC 115 or 255.

I. Major in Mathematics—35 hours

A. MAT 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 315 and 498 are required.
B. Select one: MAT 411, MAT 415.
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D. Independent Study (MAT 495) or Departmental Special Study (MAT 395) may be used for 3 of the 9 hours required in C.
E. Prerequisites: PHY 231, and CSC 115 or 255.
Admissions and Progression in the Major in Mathematics with Discipline-Specific Honors

Admission to the Program requires completion of at least 15 hours through Union University or transfer to include MAT 207 and MAT 213 with a minimum GPA of 3.50 both in all coursework and specifically in mathematics as well. Transfer students must complete at least one semester at Union University prior to application to include at least one course applicable to the major. Application is made during or immediately following the second semester of the sophomore year, or for a transfer student not at Union during the sophomore year, immediately following the first semester of the junior.

At least three full semesters, preferably four, must remain before graduation when application is made. The student makes application to the Office of the Director of the Honors Community but must be preceded by an appointment with the mathematics faculty member in charge of DSH.

To remain in the program the student must maintain the 3.50 minimum GPA both overall and in Mathematics, complete each honors contract course with a grade of B or better, and complete the requirements of the honors thesis in a timely manner as outlined below.

The honors contract for upper-level courses other than MAT 498 shall consist of work that helps the student develop skills in proving theorems and promotes understanding deeper than that required of other students. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, Option (1) completion of a collection of 20 proofs that are more difficult or probe the material more deeply than is required of other students, or Option (2) reading, understanding, and presenting a previously-published paper in the content area of the course. The department reserves the right to require an honors student to complete an honors contract of each type during the junior year. For each honors contract course, the student must:

- Come to agreement with the instructor of the course regarding the nature of the contract prior to the beginning of the course. Students are advised to contact the instructor prior to the end of the previous Fall or Spring Semester.
- Obtain approval of the honors contract from the faculty member in charge of DSH.
- Complete the required paperwork with the Office of the Director of the Honors Community prior to the first day of classes for the semester.
- A student may petition the Department of Mathematics in writing to have his/her case reviewed for exception. The petition is submitted to the Chair and will be reviewed by a committee of three mathematics faculty.
- A student planning to graduate in May shall enroll in the same 2-credit-hour MAT 498 taken in the fall semester by all senior mathematics majors, but with an honors contract. The student shall make enough progress in the fall semester to make a presentation along with the other seniors and complete the requirements for the 2-credit-hour MAT 498. The student shall enroll in one credit hour of MAT 498 for honors in the spring semester in order to complete the honors project. The project advisor will guide the student through the timetable required to meet internal and external requirements for project development and completion. For a student planning to graduate in December, an equivalent timeline will be developed on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the faculty member in charge of DSH and the project advisor, preferably by the end of the previous January, but no later than the beginning of the spring second accelerated term. The requirements for the Honors Project/Thesis will be detailed in the student’s syllabus for MAT 498 during the semester of graduation.
- A student failing to make sufficient progress in the honors thesis to meet the required timetable or is of insufficient quality shall be dismissed from departmental honors.
Graduation with Discipline-Specific Honors in Mathematics requires the student must:
- Complete degree requirements with a minimum 3.50 mathematics GPA,
- Complete each honors contract course with a grade of B or better,
- Present the project at the Union University Scholarship Symposium,
- Apply to present the project at an off-campus meeting, and
- Submit an article based on the project.

 Greater detail for admissions, honors contract requirements, and other program specifics is provided at http://www.uu.edu/dept/math/honors.cfm.

**Assessment of Majors**

All senior mathematics majors must take the Major Field Test in mathematics as one requirement for MAT 498 (see below). Those majors completing a teacher licensure program are required to take the PRAXIS II.

**Student Organizations**

Kappa Mu Epsilon, honor society in mathematics, selects students who have achieved standards of scholarship, professional merit, and academic distinction. A student must have completed 3 semesters’ rank in the upper 35%, completed 3 courses in MAT, to include calculus, and have a minimum 3.0 Math GPA.

Sigma Zeta is a national honorary science society for those who have completed 15 hours in natural science and math with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in these courses.

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**Course Offerings in Mathematics (MAT)**

* ( ) Hours Credit; F-Fall, W-Winter; S-Spring; Su-Summer

*101. Mathematics for Elementary Teachers (3) F, S
This course is designed to introduce the student to problem solving strategies and the real number system. Topics will include the whole numbers, integers, fractions and decimals, functions and coordinate geometry.

*107. Mathematics for the Liberal Arts (3) F, S
This course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts of several areas of mathematics. Topics of focus will include counting techniques, descriptive statistics, probability and geometry.

*108. Invitation to Mathematical Thinking (3)
The course is designed to introduce students to mathematical ways of thinking. Topics may include Fibonacci numbers, golden ratio, infinity, dimension, Pythagorean theorem, Platonic solids, topology, chaos and fractals, and selected topics from probability and statistics. By exploring “great ideas” in mathematics, students will discover that mathematics requires both imagination and creativity and can change how they view the world. The course satisfies the general core requirement for mathematics.

**111. College Algebra (3) F, W, S; Su As Needed
Prerequisite: Two years of high school algebra.
Topics include equations in two variables, functions, graphing techniques, systems of equations and inequalities, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, and the theory of polynomial equations.

**112. Plane Trigonometry (3) As Needed
Prerequisite: MAT 111.
Topics include the definition of the trigonometric functions, radian measure, linear and angular velocity, graphing techniques, trigonometric identities and equations, the inverse trigonometric functions, and solving triangles.

**114. Introduction to Statistics and Probability (3)
Prerequisite: Two years of high school algebra.
Descriptive statistics with introduction to inferential statistics. Topics include organization of data into frequency distribution tables and histograms, measures of central tendency, standard deviation, basic probability, continuous distributions through the normal distribution, introduction to sampling theory and hypothesis testing.

**116. Precalculus (4) F; S
Prerequisites: Two years of high school algebra and one of geometry.
An introduction to polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, circular and inverse circular functions. The course also includes trigonometric identities and basic analytic geometry. This course is intended for students planning to take MAT 211 and is not recommended for students who have taken MAT 111 and/or 112.

**201. Applied Calculus (3) As Needed
Prerequisite: MAT 111 or its equivalent.
Topics include a review of algebra principles, development of differential calculus with an emphasis on applications of the derivative to business and biological sciences, and an introduction to integral calculus with elementary applications of the definite integral. Is not recommended for students that have taken MAT 211-12.

**205. Discrete Mathematics (3) F—As Needed
Prerequisite: MAT 111 or its equivalent.
Topics include elementary logic, sets, proof techniques including induction, relations and graphs, recurrence relations, basic counting techniques, equivalence relations, Boolean algebra, and algebraic structures.

* Six hours maximum may be applied toward graduation from MAT 111-2, 116.
@ Does not apply toward the major or minor.
207. Transition Mathematics (3) F  
Corequisite: MAT 212  
An introduction to abstract mathematical reasoning,  
including reading and writing proofs. Topics include logic,  
types of proofs, set theory, functions and relations.

208. Statistics (3) F; S—As Needed  
Prerequisite: MAT 201 or 211.  
This is a calculus-based statistics course. Topics include  
descriptive statistics, probability theory, discrete and  
continuous random variables, common discrete distributions,  
the normal distribution, sampling distributions, and  
applications to confidence interval estimates and hypothesis  
testing.

211. Calculus and Analytic Geometry I (4) F, S  
Prerequisite: Choose one of the following: 1) MAT 116; 2) MAT 111 and 112; 3) Math ACT of 29 or higher; or 4) a passing score on the Calculus Readiness Test (CRT). A Math ACT of 23 or higher is recommended for students taking the CRT.  
Topics include basic concepts of plane analytic geometry,  
functions, limits, differentiation of algebraic and trigonometric  
functions, applications of the derivative, the indefinite and the  
definite integral, and the fundamental theorem of calculus.

212. Calculus and Analytic Geometry II (4) F, S  
Prerequisite: MAT 211.  
Topics include integration by substitution, numerical  
integration, applications of the definite integral, the calculus  
of transcendental functions, techniques of integration, and  
the calculus of parameterized curves.

213. Calculus and Analytic Geometry III (4) F, S  
Prerequisite: MAT 212.  
Topics include infinite series, polar coordinates, vectors in  
three-space, functions of several variables, partial derivatives,  
multiple integrals, and line integrals.

305. Statistical Methods (3) S—Odd Years  
Prerequisite: MAT 208.  
Parametric and non-parametric statistical methods with an  
emphasis on applications. Topics include correlation and  
regression, analysis of variance, Chi-square distribution,  
contingency tables, and applications to the social sciences,  
life sciences, and business.

310. History of Mathematics (3) S—Even Years  
Prerequisite: MAT 212.  
A survey of the major developments in the history of  
mathematics with special emphasis to the areas usually  
discussed in high school and undergraduate mathematics  
courses: geometry, algebra, trigonometry, and calculus.

314. Differential Equations (3) F, S  
Prerequisite: MAT 213.  
Topics include linear first-order differential equations  
and applications, higher-order differential equations, and  
aplications.
412. **Analysis II (3) As Needed**  
Prerequisite: MAT 411  
A continuation of MAT 411. Topics include sequences of functions, infinite series, and further development of the theory of integration and other topics from MAT 411. Additional topics at the discretion of the instructor.

413. **College Geometry (3) Three-semester rotation**  
Prerequisite: MAT 207 and 212.  
Topics include axiomatic foundations of Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry, models for incidence geometries, and development of theorems in the geometries of the Euclidean plane and the hyperbolic plane.

415. **Abstract Algebra (3) Three-semester rotation**  
Prerequisite: MAT 207 and 212.  
An introduction to the theory of groups and rings. Topics include elementary properties of groups and rings, permutation groups, cyclic groups, subgroups, Lagrange's theorem, normal subgroups, quotient groups, homomorphisms and isomorphisms, subrings, integral domains, fields, and characteristic.

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179-279-379-479. **External Domestic Study Programs** (1-3) As Needed  
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

179PF-279PF-379PF-479PF. **External Domestic Study Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed**  
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. **Study Abroad Programs** (1-4)  
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

180PF-280PF-380PF-480PF. **Study Abroad Programs (Pass/Fail) As Needed**  
All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. **Special Studies (1-4)**  
Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

195PF-6-7. **Special Studies (1-4) (Pass/Fail)**  
Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. **Independent Study (1-4)**  
Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

495-6-7. **Seminar (1-3)**  
To be used at the discretion of the department.