Nebraska Wesleyan University

Mathematics

Catalog

2016-2017

About the Program

Mathematics is an intriguing field that helps us understand the world by modeling physical phenomena quantitatively and employing sound reasoning skills. A degree in mathematics offers students many options, including careers in business, government, industry, and teaching. Some students also pursue post-graduate education in mathematics, medicine, law, and science. Students studying mathematics at Nebraska Wesleyan University have opportunities to engage themselves fully in their education by conducting research with faculty, teaching in the Math Tutoring Center, grading for courses, attending Math Club events, and working collaboratively with their peers.

Majors, Minors & Degrees

Majors

1. Mathematics (B.A., B.S.)

Minors

1. Mathematics

Courses

MATH 1000 Mathematics for Liberal Arts

3 hours

An investigation of the application of mathematical reasoning and problem solving. Topics may include networks, linear programming, data sampling and analysis, voting systems, game theory, measurement analysis, and coding.
(Normally offered each semester.)

MATH 1010 Mathematics and Democracy

3 hours

A study of various aspects of mathematics pertinent to a democracy including voting methods, logic of argumentation, statistics in the media, and financial mathematics.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

MATH 1100 College Algebra

3 hours

A study of functions from algebraic, graphical, numerical and modeling perspectives. The functions are chosen from among linear, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT score of at least 21.

(Normally offered each semester.)

MATH 1200 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers

3 hours

A course for elementary education majors designed to promote a deep understanding of elementary mathematics topics, including the decimal system, fractions, percentages, arithmetic operations and problem-solving. Emphasis is placed on communicating mathematics, both in writing and orally.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

MATH 1300 Statistics

3 hours

An introduction to statistics concepts with an emphasis on applications. Topics include descriptive statistics, discrete and continuous probability distributions, the central limit theorem, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and linear regression.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

MATH 1400 Pre-Calculus

4 hours

A study of elementary functions, their graphs, and applications, including polynomial, rational, algebraic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT score of at least 24 or grade of "C" or better in MATH 1100 College Algebra.

MATH 1450 Finite Mathematics

4 hours

A survey of specialized mathematical techniques used to solve contemporary problems in business, economics and the social sciences. Topics may include linear regression, mathematical finance, systems of equations, matrix algebra, linear programming, enumeration, probability, and statistics.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT of at least 24 or a grade of "C "or better in MATH 1100 College Algebra.
(Normally offered each semester.)

MATH 1470 Trigonometry

2 hours

A study of trigonometric functions, identities, equations, and their applications.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT score of at least 24 or a grade of "C" or better in MATH 1100 College Algebra.
MATH 1100 College Algebra and MATH 1470 Trigonometry may be taken concurrently with the permission of the Trigonometry instructor or department chair.
(Normally offered during the last 8 weeks of each semester in an online format.)

MATH 1500 Calculus for Management, Biological, and Social Sciences

4 hours

A calculus course for non-mathematics majors. Topics include limits, continuity, differentiation, and integration with emphasis on relevant applications.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT score of at least 24 or grade of "C" or better in MATH 1100 College Algebra.
(Normally offered once a year.)

MATH 1550 Calculus for Biologists

4 hours

A calculus course that emphasizes biological applications. Topics include Malthusian growth, limits, continuity, differentiation, optimization, differential equations, and integration. Assignments are given that involve spreadsheets and computer algebra systems.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT score of at least 24 or grade of "C" or better in MATH 1100 College Algebra.

MATH 1600 Calculus I

5 hours

An introduction to calculus of a single variable. Topics include limits, continuity, differentiation, and beginning integration with applications. Assignments are given that help build proficiency in the use of a computer algebra system.
Prerequisite(s): Math ACT score of at least 27 or a grade of "C" or better in MATH 1470 Trigonometry or MATH 1400 Pre-Calculus.
(Normally offered each semester.)

MATH 1610 Calculus II

5 hours

A continuation of MATH 1600 Calculus I. Topics studied include integration techniques and applications, differential equations, numerical approximations, sequences and series, and vectors. Assignments are given that help build proficiency in the use of a computer algebra system.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair or grade of "C" or better in MATH 1600 Calculus I.
(Normally offered each semester.)

MATH 1900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

MATH 1950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a course where a student works independently on a topic. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

MATH 1960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

MATH 1970 Internship

0-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student’s major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student.

Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

MATH 2200 Introduction to Higher Mathematics

3 hours

A study of mathematical induction and other methods of proof, recursion, formal logic, and set theory.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II or permission of the instructor.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

MATH 2600 Calculus III

4 hours

An introduction to multivariable calculus. Topics include vector-valued functions, functions of several variables, partial differentiation, multiple integrals, and analysis. Assignments are given that help build proficiency in the use of a computer algebra system.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of department chair or grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

MATH 2700 Tutoring Experience

0 hours

A tutoring experience comprised of at least 20 hours of mathematics tutoring. Tutoring may include, but is not limited to, these types: volunteer tutoring, tutoring at NWU's Math Tutoring Center or private tutoring. A reflection component is required.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of Department Chair.
Pass/Fail Only.

MATH 2900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

MATH 2950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a course where a student works independently on a topic. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Sophomore standing and permission of the department chair.

MATH 2960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

MATH 2970 Internship

1-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student's major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

MATH 3100 Differential Equations

4 hours

A study of ordinary differential equations. Topics include first- and higher-order, linear and nonlinear differential equations with applications. Additional topics may be chosen from systems of differential equations, transform techniques, and numerical methods. Use will be made of a computer algebra system.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

MATH 3200 Linear Algebra

3 hours

A study of vector spaces, determinants, linear transformations, matrices, matrix equations, and their applications in the natural and social sciences.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

MATH 3300 Mathematical Statistics I

3 hours

An introduction to basic probability and statistics concepts with an emphasis on applications. Topics include descriptive statistics, axioms and calculations of probabilities, Bayes' Theorem, discrete and continuous probability distributions, joint probability distributions, estimation and hypothesis testing.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II.
(Normally offered fall of even-numbered years.)

MATH 3310 Mathematical Statistics II

3 hours

A continuation of MATH 3300 Mathematical Statistics I, with further applications of probability theory to statistical problems of estimation and hypothesis testing, including least squares estimation and correlation. Also studied is analysis of variance with numerous applications of this technique.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 3300 Mathematical Statistics I.

MATH 3400 Number Theory

3 hours

A study of fundamental concepts in number theory, including divisibility and factorization of integers, linear and quadratic congruences, the quadratic reciprocity theorem, Diophantine equations, number-theoretic functions, and continued fractions. Additional topics may include Euler's theorem and cryptography, perfect numbers and Mersenne primes, Pythagorean triples, and Fermat's Last Theorem.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II.

MATH 3500 Geometry

3 hours

Selected topics from Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry, geometry as a mathematical structure, and geometry as a study of invariants of set transformations.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 2200 Introduction to Higher Mathematics.

(Normally offered fall of odd-numbered years.)

MATH 3600 Mathematical Problem Solving

1 hour

A seminar on problem solving skills and their application to nontrivial problems. May be repeated.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 2200 Introduction to Higher Mathematics or permission of the instructor.
(Normally offered each fall semester.)

MATH 3700 Mathematical Modeling

3 hours

A course that explores applications of mathematics to real-world problems. One or more topics may be chosen from the non-inclusive list: dynamical systems, linear programming, queueing theory, game theory, numerical analysis, wavelets, coding theory, and partial differential equations. Computer-based exercises will be a component of the course.

MATH 3750 Numerical Analysis

3 hours

An introduction to the numerical approximation of solutions of various types of problems. Topics include root-finding, interpolation and numerical differentiation and integration. Additional topics may be drawn from numerical solutions of ordinary differential equations and linear systems.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 1610 Calculus II.
(Normally offered fall of odd-numbered years.)

MATH 3900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

MATH 3950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a course where a student works independently on a topic. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Junior standing or permission of the department chair.

MATH 3960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

MATH 3970 Internship

1-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student's major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

MATH 4200 Abstract Algebra I

3 hours

A study of various algebraic systems arising in modern mathematics, such as groups and rings.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 2200 Introduction to Higher Mathematics.
(Normally offered fall of even-numbered years.)

MATH 4210 Abstract Algebra II

3 hours

A continuation of MATH 4200 Abstract Algebra I. More study of groups, rings, and fields. Additional topics may be drawn from modules and finite fields.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 4200 Abstract Algebra I.

MATH 4300 Real Analysis

3 hours

A formal approach to limits, continuity, differentiation, and integration with emphasis on the proofs of theorems. Additional topics may include topology, uniform continuity, and uniform convergence.
Prerequisite(s): Grade of "C" or better in MATH 2200 Introduction to Higher Mathematics and MATH 2600 Calculus III.
(Normally offered spring of even-numbered years.)

MATH 4800 Research Experience

0-3 hours

An independent research experience involving survey and synthesis of literature in a particular mathematical topic. In some cases, the student may undertake novel investigations. The experience will culminate in a conference-style presentation and written report. Students will keep a reflection journal throughout the experience.
Prerequisite: Permission of Department Chair.
Pass/Fail Only.

MATH 4900 Selected Topics

1-4 hours

A topical course designed to investigate relevant subject matter not included in any standard courses. The title and the content will be determined by current mutual interests of students and faculty. This course may be offered to meet a requirement for a major only by approval of the department chair.

MATH 4950 Independent Study

1-4 hours

This is a course where a student works independently on a topic. The student initially meets with the department chair to select a study topic. At this time the student will be assigned a faculty resource person to guide his or her work and assist in an advisory capacity. A copy of the student's work is filed in the archives for the department. Independent Study may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Senior standing or permission of the department chair.

MATH 4960 Special Projects

1-15 hours

Supervised individual projects for students on topics selected by the student in consultation with the instructor. Special Projects may not duplicate courses described in the catalog.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the instructor.

MATH 4970 Internship

1-8 hours

An on-the-job experience oriented toward the student's major interest. The student is to secure a position in an organization that satisfies the mutual interests of the instructor, the sponsor, and the student.
Prerequisite(s): Permission of the department chair.

MATH 4980 Mathematics Seminar

3 hours

A study of topics of special interest in mathematics. Students will be required to make at least three presentations including individual study of a specific mathematics topic under the supervision of the faculty.
Prerequisite(s): Major in mathematics, senior standing, grade of "C" or better in either MATH 4200 Abstract Algebra I or MATH 4300 Real Analysis, and permission of the instructor.
(Normally offered each spring semester.)

MATH 4990 Senior Project

0-4 hours

Independent field research for all majors.