

This semester I was a TA for Vector Calculus with Chris Jewell. It was a privilege to be able to participate in this program for a second semester. I felt like I benefited from this semester both in teaching but in other aspects as well. I was able to gain a better understanding of the concepts behind the courses covered in the tutoring room and my confidence in the material increased as well. I also gained a lot of practical skills through the program.

I was lucky to get to work with a mentor who gave me a lot of freedom in what I wanted to do, which resulted in me getting a lot out of the experience. I had the opportunity to teach multiple lessons during the semester and get a lot of practice with LaTeX. I was also able to learn how to make fair exams that accurately test understanding of material and how to plan lessons to make the material engaging. I am hoping to go into academia teaching mathematics and doing research, so I was really fortunate to be able to tailor my work around that while still benefiting my mentor at the same time.

One of my favorite aspects of the program was the seminar. It was great training in skills for teaching and instructing, but I also was able to learn about what graduate school for mathematics is like, what some math related careers are like, and that greatly encouraged me in my desire to go to graduate school while increasing my confidence in my ability to choose that educational path. I think that the mentors both semesters did a phenomenal job ensuring that the seminar was as beneficial as possible for the UTAs, because it ended up being so much more enjoyable than the majority of obligatory meetings undergraduates have to attend.

Overall, I would encourage all math majors to participate in this program for at least one semester. The skills that you will gain and the appreciation that you will obtain for mathematics is worth so much more than what any other job can provide.