

Jeffrey Truman

Sponsor: Dan Madden

Course: Math 323

During the Spring 2009 semester, I participated in the Undergraduate Teaching Assistant program for Dr. Dan Madden's MATH 323 class (an introduction to mathematical proof). I held office hours where I was available for help with problems in the course, as well as working three hours a week in the lower-division tutoring room. However, unlike most UTAs, I did not do any grading for the course, as Dr. Madden does all of the grading himself. While holding my office hours, I was disappointed that so few people came; I would estimate that around 90% of the tutoring I gave during my office hours was to two particular students. I would suggest that more students should take advantage of the resources available to them; I am aware that there were students that had never come in for help who received extremely low exam scores (in one case, less than 10%).

As part of the UTA program, I also attended weekly meetings, generally concerning topics in math education. I learned some interesting and useful things from these sessions; for example, one session talked about common student misuse of the '=' sign (a problem that I can attest to in my tutoring) and suggested methods to help.