

Being a UTA this past semester for Dr. Lozano's Linear Algebra class was a terrific experience that not only allowed me to increase my love of mathematics as a subject, but also prepared me for future mathematics courses. I initially took this course with Dr. Lozano in Fall 2017. At times, I found the class to be very difficult and occasionally doubted if I had the ability to complete the mathematics major, but I continued to work hard and do daily problems in hopes of one day grasping the material. I found the material to be very interesting, and by the end of the semester, I was accepted to TA for the course.

At the beginning of the semester, I found my role in the class to be extremely intimidating. Because of the interactive nature of the course, I would attend each class to answer questions and encourage discussion among students. Though the information from the first chapter of the course is trivial when seen for the second time, I still had the tendency to doubt myself when answering students' questions. I also found tutoring in MTL 121 to be extremely intimidating, but the other tutors were so nice that I was able to catch on.

As the semester progressed, I gradually found my tasks as a UTA to become much more natural. The review sessions that I held independently went well, and I became more sure in each answer that I gave to students in my class and in the tutoring lab. I was even given the chance to present material in lecture occasionally, and this surprised me in that it was much less intimidating compared to what I expected. The weekly seminar gave me the chance to develop a variety of skills valuable to teaching and I was able to learn a lot from other UTAs who have participated in this program for multiple semesters.

The overall experience of working as a UTA benefited me in numerous ways. My confidence really grew over the semester because of the challenges that I was given. I was able to see aspects of teaching that I had not even known existed, and I learned valuable skills related to teaching that will benefit no matter what career path I choose. Being a UTA has also helped me in my current math courses which are both based upon linear algebra, and teaching these concepts allowed me to gain a much more solid understanding of the material and as also increased my interest in the topic.

I would highly recommend this program to other undergraduate students because I was able to grow so much throughout the semester and this program had such a positive impact it on my academic career. The department, professors, and students are all wonderful and it has made my time in this program a positive experience.