

Math UTA Experience

My experience in the UTA program left me with many interesting perspectives on math, such as the perspectives of other students, and the perspective of teaching it. For me a major part of learning is just changing your perspective on the same subject, so I did learn a lot regarding the fundamentals of math. In terms of confidence and speaking, I can see that I improved greatly, since I developed the ability to use the student's way of thinking as a tool for how to teach them. This in general gave me a new basic perspective on math as a whole when it comes to learning, and allowed me to see my own faults and struggles in the learning process. In terms of academic progress, it feels that my method of learning was actually altered in some minor ways which are rather subtle, but mainly just a product of seeing from the perspective of the teacher.

The program has given me some decent preparation for the transition to teaching if it ever happens that I do. For graduate school I'm sure having this TA experience will be a bonus. Tutoring usually felt like a test of my basic math skills and it was interesting to have to come up and assist with solutions on the spot, under the pressure of the student. Another key piece of perspective I gained was just seeing mathematics under a professional light rather than simply seeing it as some study I did on my own. Seeing it under such a light gave me a sense of respect for teachers in general and also showed me the value of other people's opinions, rather than doing all math-related things on my own. In the program I learned much about the communicatory aspect of math, which is the aspect where the transference of techniques and knowledge come about.

I would definitely recommend the program to other students due to the fact that obtaining different perspectives on the subject is priceless when it comes to everything regarding that subject. I got a decent taste of many of the aspects that go into teaching such as holding office hours, writing test solutions, and tutoring students. Because of this knowledge it helped me see more clearly what I wanted to do with my life job-wise since I was able to test the waters of the professional math life. I do think the program portrayed the math professional field in a positive light since it was nice to see that math was actually relevant in the real world rather than a puzzle-like game that I played with myself.