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Reflection on the UTA Program

I initially wanted to be a part of the program after helping my brother extensively with his math class the semester previous. I had found that while doing so I had the ability to explain to my brother certain concepts and ideas as I would have liked them to be explained to me when I was learning said content. So when I took notice of this opportunity I wanted to apply to be able to use my perspective and experience to students who might be having a hard time. Certainly this was an aspect of the job but soon I found there to be more beneath the surface, and I consider myself to have grown as an individual given this experience.

Being a UTA has most definitely increased my engagements with the mathematics I love, and also served as an inside look in the world of mathematics education. Working with a mentor to teach a class's worth of content certainly has an appreciable amount of work and effort required, and being able to assist with just a fraction of that is enough to gain that appreciation at least on an introductory level.

Starting on my journey through the program this semester I already had an idea of my own capabilities in regards to being able to effectively communicate ideas and concepts. However I soon realized, while actually gaining experience by doing things like tutoring students and hosting review sessions before tests, that I definitely still had and have a lot of room to grow and learn myself.

If someone were to ask whether or not they should apply for the position I would say that they probably should. The experience gained from seeing first hand what the education process entails to gaining confidence in your own abilities is certainly worth it. I can say that I believe that my academic career has been if anything at least enriched by the process.