

UTA Reflection  
Spring 2020  
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Being a member of the UTA program has impacted my life immensely, but not entirely in the ways that I expected. Going in, I expected the most rewarding aspects of the program to be the opportunity to hold office hours and the increased access to math faculty, which could help to foster meaningful relationships with those who are doing research in the field. These expectations were exceeded, and I also realized the value that having a job can have when finding routine and gaining discipline, as well as helping to develop a stronger work ethic. As extraordinary as these facets of the UTA program were, they still trailed behind one major part of the program that has changed my life. In the UTA seminar, we spent a fair amount of time on teaching techniques, as it is necessary to be able to convey class material effectively during office hours and in the time spent in the math teaching lab. I always thought that I wanted to pursue a path into academia, but the UTA seminar gave me a glimpse into education and the impact that educators are capable of having on the lives of students, and so I have changed my career path and am currently pursuing a B.S. in Mathematics with an emphasis on secondary education. This decision has brought back the passion for academics that I had been missing in my day-to-day life for the majority of my freshman year, and I cannot wait to take my first steps on this new path in my life. This passion made its presence known in my work in the math teaching lab and in office hours, and I have grown as an instructor and as a math student as a result – this has led to me being more successful in my math classes as well. I have so much more confidence going into the fall semester now because of what the UTA program has taught me, and I would absolutely recommend this program to anybody interested!