Applying to the Department

Students considering a major or minor in the Department should attend the departmental sophomore meeting early in the spring semester. They should also enter their information into the Sophomore Plan web form. These students will then be contacted by the Department and assigned a Sophomore Plan advisor. While students intending to major in the Department are expected to meet with and discuss their proposed major with this advisor, for students intending to minor such a meeting is encouraged but not required.

The Mathematics Major

Acceptance into the Major

The normal preparation for a major or minor in mathematics is to have obtained credit for, or placement out of, at least four of the following five course groups by the end of the sophomore year: Calculus I (Math 15), Calculus II (Math 25 or 26), Discrete Mathematics (Math 29), Linear Algebra (Math 27 or any flavor of 28), and Several Variable Calculus (Math 33, 34, or 35). In any event, all majors must complete the Linear Algebra and Several Variable Calculus requirement by the end of the first semester of the junior year.

To be accepted as a major or a minor, a candidate normally should have a grade point average of at least C+ in courses taken in the Department to date, including courses in the fall term of the first year, for which we have shadow grades. A candidate should have at least one grade at the B level. Students should be aware that upper-level courses in mathematics are typically more demanding and more theoretical than the first- and second-year courses. This is an important factor in considering borderline cases. In some cases, applicants may be deferred pending successful work in courses to be designated by the Department.

Basic Requirements

By graduation, a mathematics major must have at least 10 credits in mathematics and statistics courses; at least 5 of the credits counted in the 10 must be for courses numbered over 40. (Certain courses – mostly those numbered under 10 – do not count toward the major in any event. These are so indicated under the course listings in the College Bulletin.) Furthermore, every major is required to have credit for, or place out of, the following course groups:

15; 25 or 26; 27 or 28; 33, 34 or 35; 63; 67.

In the multivariate group {33,34,35}, it is strongly preferred that candidates for the major take 34 or 35, that is, one of the linear algebra-based versions.

Note that placement counts for satisfying the requirements but not for the 10-credit rule. Those students who are placed out of courses without credit must take other courses to obtain 10 credits. If you believe you are eligible for credit for courses taken before Swarthmore (because of AP or IB scores) but these credits are not showing on your transcript, please
attend to this matter now. Your application to our department may otherwise be held up.

The two required core courses, Introduction to Real Analysis (Math 63) and Introduction to Modern Algebra (Math 67), are offered every fall semester, and we try to create enough sections to keep them relatively small and seminar-like. We hope, but cannot promise, to offer one or the other of 63 and 67 each spring as well. At least one of these two courses should be taken no later than the fall of the junior year. Majors are expected to complete both Math 63 and 67 before the spring semester of the senior year; permission to delay taking either course until the senior spring must be requested in writing as early as possible but in any event no later than the beginning of the fall semester of the senior year. Finally, all course majors must also pass the comprehensive requirement, Senior Conference (Math 97). This is given in the fall only and must be taken at Swarthmore.

Emphasis in Statistics

A student may major in mathematics with an emphasis in statistics by taking at least 10 credits in math or statistics, including the core analysis course (Math 63), Probability (Stat 51), Mathematical Statistics I&II (Stat 61 and 111), Statistical Methods II (Stat 21), and Senior Conference (Math 97), along with placement or credit for Introduction to Computer Science (CS 21). Stat 21 counts as a course numbered over 40 for majors with an emphasis in statistics. Students are advised to take CS 21 as early as possible, as it can be difficult to add the course in junior and senior years.

Notes

• **Transfer credits.** Courses taken elsewhere may count for the major. However, the number of upper-level transfer credits for the major is limited. Normally, at least 3 of the 5 upper-level courses used to fulfill the major must be taken at Swarthmore, including at least one of the core courses Math 63 and Math 67. Exceptions should be proposed and approved during the sophomore plan process, not after the fact. Also, the usual College rules for transfer credit apply: You must see the professor in charge of transfer twice: in advance to obtain authorization, and afterwards to get final approval and a determination of credit. In particular, for Math 63 and 67, you are responsible for the syllabus we use. If your course elsewhere turns out not to fully cover our syllabus, you will not get full credit (even though the transfer course was authorized beforehand) and you will not complete the major until you have demonstrated knowledge of the missing topics. Similarly, for honors preparations you are responsible for the syllabi we use; we will not offer special honors exams based on work done at other institutions.

• **Foreign study.** Students planning to study abroad should obtain information well in advance about the courses available at the institution they plan to attend and check with the Department about selecting appropriate courses. It may be difficult to find courses abroad equivalent to our core upper-level courses, or to our honors preparations, since curricula in other countries are often organized differently.

• Mathematics majors are encouraged to study in some depth an additional discipline that makes use of mathematics. We also recommend that they acquire some facility with coding.
The Mathematics Course Minor and the Statistics Course Minor

Acceptance into the minors

The requirements for acceptance into either course minor are the same as for acceptance into the major. Students may not minor in both mathematics and statistics.

Basic requirements to complete the mathematics course minor:

By graduation, a mathematics course minor must have at least 6 credits in mathematics and statistics courses. Those courses offered by the Department that do not count towards the major also do not count towards the course minor. Furthermore, every mathematics course minor is required to have credit for, or place out of, the following course groups:

15; 25 or 26; 27 or 28; 33, 34 or 35.

Every mathematics course minor must obtain at least three credits in mathematics or statistics courses whose numbers are greater than 43. (Note the difference from the majors requirement, which is 5 courses over 40.) At least one of these three credits must be obtained from Math 63 or Math 67. Also, at least two of these three credits must be taken at Swarthmore.

Basic requirements of the statistics course minor:

By graduation, a statistics course minor must have at least 6 credits in mathematics and statistics courses. Those courses offered by the Department that do not count towards the major also do not count towards the statistics course minor. Along with the lower level courses listed above for the math course minor, every Statistics course minor must receive credit for, or place out of, CS 21, Stat 21, Stat 51 and Stat 61. At least one of Stat 51 or Stat 61 must be taken at Swarthmore. Students are advised to take CS 21 as early as possible, as it can be difficult to add the course in junior and senior years.

The Honors Program

All current sophomores who wish to apply for honors should indicate this in their Sophomore Plan, should work out a tentative honors program with their departmental advisor, and should submit the College’s Honors Program Application along with their Sophomore Plan. All honors forms are available from the Registrar or the Registrar’s website.

The Honors Major

Basic requirements

To be accepted as an honors major in mathematics, a student should have a grade point average in mathematics and statistics courses to date of at least B+. An honors math major program consists of three preparations of two credits each, for a total of six distinct credits. One preparation must be in Algebra and one in Analysis (Real or Complex). The student must also satisfy all requirements of the mathematics major (e.g., 10 credits) with the exception of the comprehensive requirement (Math 97, Senior Conference).
Honors Preparations

The Department offers preparations in the fields listed below. Each preparation is subject to External Examination, including a 3-hour written examination and a 45-minute oral examination. Each preparation consists of a specified pair of credits. The specified credits are listed after each field.

- Algebra (67 and 102)
- Real Analysis (63 and 101)
- Complex Analysis (63 and 103)
- Geometry (either 55 or 75, and 106)
- Statistics (61 and 111)
- Topology (104, a 2-credit seminar)

No course is allowed to count in two honors preparations, so it is not possible for a student to select both Real Analysis and Complex Analysis as preparations.

The External Examination component of the program is meant to prompt students to learn their core subjects very well and to show the examiners that they have done so – that is, show that they deserve honors. However, no three fields cover everything a strong student would ideally learn as an undergraduate. Honors majors should consider including in their studies a number of advanced courses and seminars beyond what they present for honors.

Especially strong students who do many advanced courses may petition to substitute an advanced preparation for either Algebra or Analysis. For instance, a student who has taken essentially all our seminars might petition to be examined in Algebra, Topology, and Geometry, omitting an analysis examination. However, all honors students must take the algebra sequence and one of the analysis sequences, even if they are given permission to be examined in something else.

Senior Honors Study/Portfolio. None is required or offered.

The Honors Minor

To be accepted as an honors minor in mathematics, a student should have a grade point average in mathematics and statistics courses to date of at least B, and must have credit for, or placement out of the same course groups as before:

- 15; 25 or 26; 27 or 28; 33, 34 or 35.

For the honors portion of their programs, minors should complete one preparation consisting of two credits. The fields are the same as those for the honors major. All prospective minors who are majoring in a subject related to mathematics or statistics are encouraged to consult with a member of the Department to see which preparation is most appropriate to their interests. Honors minors are encouraged to take at least one of Math 63 and 67 even if it is not part of their honors preparation. Also, students who are doing an honors math minor as a way of showing a strength in statistics (i.e., by taking Stat 61 and 111 as their preparation) are encouraged to take a data-driven stat course as well (e.g., Stat 11, 21 or 41).

Program Changes and Late Applications

Students often wish to change their proposals after sophomore spring. Changes in particular courses or honors preparations do not require a new application, but changes in type of program
do. For instance, a change from a course major to an honors major, or from a regular course major to a statistics concentration, or an addition of a minor in math/stat, would all require a new application. The procedure in our department is to submit a petition that amounts to a minisophomore plan. Please contact the chair for details.

Progress towards the Degree

The progress of majors and minors in the Department may be reviewed from time to time. Students not making satisfactory progress may be encouraged or required to modify or drop their programs.

Schedule of Upper-Level Mathematics and Statistics courses

Upper level courses in math/stat follow a 2-year periodic schedule. Many courses are offered in alternate years only (for instance, all topics courses), and topics courses have basic and advanced versions (depending on whether they have some core course as a prerequisite). Thus students must take some care to arrange their schedules so that they can take the courses that best meet their interests in the semester that those courses are offered. Students and their assigned departmental advisors should talk this over as part of the preparation for the Sophomore Plan.

For instance, one of the versions of Topics in Analysis is given in the spring of odd-numbered years. However, which version may not be decided until a few months before. Therefore, it is wise to assume that the advanced version will be offered and to base schedules on the assumption that the corresponding core course must be taken first. The Department announces which versions of topics courses shall be given as soon as it knows.

Below we list courses that we are confident we can offer in the semesters stated. We are hoping to increase our advanced offerings. We will inform you of new offerings by email and by postings on the Registrar’s Course Announcements webpage.

Upper Level Courses offered each year

Fall Semester

Math 63  Introduction to Real Analysis
Math 67  Introduction to Modern Algebra
Stat 51  Probability
Math 97  Senior Conference

Spring Semester

Math 43, 44  Differential Equations (without and with a linear algebra prerequisite; 44 is more theoretical and strongly preferred for majors)
Stat 61  Mathematical Statistics I
Math 101  Real Analysis II (one-credit seminar)
Math 102  Modern Algebra II (one-credit seminar)
Stat 111  Mathematical Statistics II

Stat 41 (Topics in Statistics) will be offered at least one semester each year.
Upper Level Courses offered once every two years (or additional sections added every other year)

Fall 2017

Math 56  Modeling
Math 103  Complex Analysis
Math 102  Modern Algebra II - tentative

Spring 2018

Math/CS 46  Theory of Computation (given by CS; counts towards the Math major)
Math 54  Partial Differential Equations
Math 57 or 77  Intermediate or Advanced Topics in Algebra
Math 104  Topology (2-credit)
Math 63  Real Analysis I - tentative

Fall 2018

Math 58  Number Theory
Math 55 or 75  Intermediate or Advanced Topics in Geometry
Math 69  Combinatorics
Math 101  Real Analysis II - tentative

Spring 2019

Math 53 or 73  Intermediate or Advanced Topics in Analysis
Math 106  Advanced Topics in Geometry
Math 67  Modern Algebra I – tentative

Faculty leave schedules

The following continuing faculty are projected to be on sabbatical or administrative leave during at least part of the listed academic years.