

The Mathematics Graduate Student Academic Handbook 2012-2013

Last Updated 05/18/12

1. Introduction

The Department of Mathematics offers the opportunity to study and conduct research in pure and applied mathematics while working toward a Master of Science or Doctor of Philosophy Degree. The University of Florida Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/>) is the University of Florida's official record of graduate policies, critical dates, deadlines, course descriptions and faculty members for all graduate students. It is the student's responsibility to know and comply with the rules and to meet the deadlines. This handbook is a supplemental resource for mathematics graduate students.

2. Department Administration

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3. Advising/Registration

Each entering student is assigned a faculty mentor and is expected to consult with the graduate coordinator and faculty mentor prior to registration. Initial advising sessions with the graduate coordinator are held in connection with the departmental orientation for new graduate students. When a student forms a supervisory committee, the chair of the committee takes on the advising role of the mentor. The graduate coordinator must approve the enrollment in departmentally controlled classes such as the first year algebra sequence MAS 5311-12, the first year analysis sequence MAA 5228-9 for mathematics graduate students, and individual work in the form of MAT 6905, MAT 6910, MAT 7979, MAT 7980, and in EAP 5836 Academic Spoken English.

Each semester please review your hold screen in www.isis.ufl.edu for any holds on your record that will prevent registration. Please register on time to avoid late fees. Registration and payment deadlines can be found at <http://graduateschool.ufl.edu/academics/calendar-2012-2013>. Please pay your portion of the fees by the fee payment deadline even if your tuition waiver has not been processed in order to avoid late fees. Timely and appropriate registration is your responsibility.

4. Enrollment requirements

Graduate School Enrollment Requirements

The Graduate School requires levels of enrollment for students varying by the type and amount of support.

Graduate School Fellow (domestic and international students): If you hold a Graduate School fellowship and are not currently a Graduate Teaching Assistant, then you must enroll for 12 credits Fall and Spring, and 8 credits in the Summer.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (domestic and international students): If you are a TA, then you must enroll for 9 credits Fall and Spring, and 3 credits for each Summer term you teach. Students

who are not native speakers of English should review English Language Skills Requirements for Employment to check whether they have an additional course requirement for their first term of teaching.

Part-time student: Minimum part-time enrollment in either Fall or Spring is 3 credits; for Summer, the minimum is 2 credits. The Department of Mathematics does not offer “part-time” status except under extenuating circumstances.

Doctoral student in qualifying term: During the term in which you take the oral qualifying examination, minimum enrollment in courses that count toward the degree is 3 credits in Fall or Spring; for Summer the minimum is 2 credits.

Doctoral student in final term: Minimum enrollment in MAT 7980 is 3 credits in either Fall or Spring; for Summer the minimum in MAT 7980 is 2 credits.

Master of Science thesis student in term of graduation: Minimum enrollment in MAT 6971 is 3 credits in either Fall or Spring; for Summer the minimum is 2 credits, whether or not you are continuing for the PhD.

Students with disabilities: Reduction of enrollment requirements may be a reasonable academic accommodation. For further information, contact the Disability Resource Center.

Tuition Waivers: If you are on a Graduate School Fellowship or a Graduate Teaching Assistantship, then your tuition waiver covers the tuition (but not the fees) for the required enrollment as long as the courses count toward the degree. For further details on what is not included see the Graduate School Policy on Tuition/Fee Waivers. If you enroll for more than the amount required or courses that do not count for your degree program, you are financially responsible for the corresponding tuition. If you drop below the enrollment required for an appointment, you become financial responsible for the entire tuition and fees for that term.

For more details, including graduate school policies on grades, drop-add, and financial responsibility, see Graduate School Registration Requirements.

Department of Mathematics Enrollment Requirements

In your first two years of graduate study, you are expected to enroll in at least two mathematics courses each spring and fall.

After the second year of graduate student, you are expected to enroll in at least one mathematics course each spring and fall. Research only is acceptable for at most two terms, one of which is the final term for the doctorate.

Courses taken outside the Department of Mathematics require permission of your mentor/advisor and the graduate coordinator. Usually at most one outside course per term is allowed.

Graduate Student Fellows are required to teach two semesters in their first year and in their third year of graduate study, when their course load will be reduced to a full-time equivalent of 9 credits.

Others with Enrollment Requirements

Other units which may have enrollment requirements include the Financial Aid Office, the UF International Center, governmental funding agencies and foundations offering particular fellowships. Be sure to meet all the constraints that apply to you. Graduate School definitions of full-time registration and full-time equivalent, which may be helpful in determining your responsibilities, are included in the Graduate School Registration Requirements.

5. Program Requirements

PhD Requirements

1. **First Year Examination**

Pass three parts of the First Year Exam, including at least one of the first four parts of the six parts listed below, with grades of Pass or High Pass.

The First Year Exam, given in May, August and January, consists of six parts corresponding to the material covered in the six core courses:

- MAS 5311 Introduction to Algebra 1
- MAS 5312 Introduction to Algebra 2
- MAA 5228 Modern Analysis 1
- MAA 5229 Modern Analysis 2
- MTG 5316 Introduction to Topology 1
- MTG 5317 Introduction to Topology 2

After completing one of the core courses, a student may take the corresponding part of the First Year Exam only the first three times the exam is offered. A student may petition the Graduate Committee to waive one or more parts or to substitute a passing grade on an exam on the material covered in MAD 6406 or MAD 6407 for one of these parts. The exam section of Candidacy and Satisfactory Progress has deadlines by which the parts must be passed.

2. **Qualifying Examination**

Pass the written and oral parts of the Qualifying Examination.

The written part of the exam is chosen with advice from the Supervisory Committee from the list exams given by departmental committees in the following areas: Algebra, Analysis, Combinatorics, Complex Analysis, Differential Geometry, Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems, Functional Analysis, Logic, Numerical Analysis, Partial Differential Equations, Probability, and Topology. The Ph.D. exams are administered in May and August each year, and each written Ph.D. exam may be taken at most twice.

The oral exam is conducted by the Supervisory Committee. It is scheduled only after the written part has been passed. It focuses on the intended area of research and includes other appropriate material at the Supervisory Committee's discretion.

3. **Research and Dissertation**

Conduct research under the guidance of a faculty member and prepare, present and defend a dissertation which shows independent investigation and is acceptable in form and content to the Supervisory Committee and the Graduate School.

4. **Language proficiency**

Demonstrate proficiency in reading mathematical works in French, German or Russian by receiving a grade of Pass on an exam by a member of one of the departmental language exam committees or by scoring in the 40th percentile or higher on the corresponding ETS language exam.

5. **Courses and Grades**

Complete 90 credits of graduate work, with a minimum of 36 credits in graduate mathematics courses including MAS 5311-2 and MAA 5228-9 or equivalent, and fulfill the distribution

requirements by completing sequences in two of the following four categories, two semesters in a third, and a semester in the fourth:

Algebra, Combinatorics and Number Theory
Analysis
Applied Mathematics
Topology and Foundations

Achieve a grade point average of 3.0 or better in all course work and a grade point average of 3.0 or better in all course work in mathematics.

6. Teaching requirement

Teach a minimum of two semesters at the college level.

7. Residence Requirement

Complete 30 credits enrolled at the University of Florida campus beyond the first 30 credits counted toward the doctoral degree.

Remarks: The requirements for the PhD degree changed on May 18, 2012. The prior rules may still be applied to students who have enrolled or signed up for the PhD program in Mathematics prior to May 18, 2012. See the graduate coordinator for more information

B. Candidacy and Satisfactory Progress for Doctoral Students

1. Candidacy

Students normally are admitted to candidacy when they have a dissertation topic approved by their supervisory committee and have passed the written and oral parts of the qualifying examination.

2. Satisfactory Progress Criteria

Graduate students in mathematics are required to make satisfactory progress. Students not making satisfactory progress will be placed on probation. If probationary status is not resolved by the end of the semester in which it is initiated, the student will not be allowed to continue as a graduate student in mathematics and any guarantee of support will be terminated. Exceptions to the rules will be made through written appeals to the Graduate coordinator or the Graduate Committee. Graduate students in mathematics must meet university requirements for satisfactory progress (see the subsection on Unsatisfactory Progress or Unsatisfactory Scholarship in the General Regulations section of the Graduate Catalog). Addition, the Department of Mathematics requires the following:

(a) Course and Grade Requirements

During their first year, PhD students must take at least two 5000+ mathematics courses each semester.

During their second year, PhD students must take at least two 5000+ mathematics courses each semester, one of which must be a 6000+ course.

After the first two years, PhD students must take at least one 5000+ mathematics course per semester. A student can count a reading/research course, e.g. MAT 6905, MAT 6910,

MAT 7979, MAT 7980, for at most two non-summer terms. At most five credits of MAT 6910 count toward the degree.

The distribution requirements are normally completed by the end of the third year and must be completed by the end of the fourth year of graduate study.

Each mathematics graduate student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better.

(b) **First Year, Qualifying and Language Exams**

PhD students must pass at least one part of the First Year Exam by May of the first full academic year of graduate study, at least two parts by August of that year, and three parts by the following February. Students who fail to achieve one of these three milestones will be transferred to the master's program.

Students must complete the written part of the Qualifying Exam by the fall offering of exams in the fourth year of graduate study, a year later than normal progress. Students who are granted a waiver of the First Year Examination must complete the written part of the Qualifying Exam by the fall offering of exams in the third year of study.

Students must take the oral part of the Qualifying Exam prior to the midpoint of the fall semester of the fourth year of graduate study.

(c) **The Language Exam** must be passed by the end of the fourth year of study.

(d) **Dissertation Advisor and Supervisory Committee**

A PhD student is expected to have a dissertation advisor and supervisory committee by the end of the Spring semester of the second year; failure to have one by January of the third year will result in academic probation.

At no time after the end of the third year may a PhD student be without a dissertation advisor and supervisory committee. If you change advisors at any time, you must notify the Graduate Secretary.

A PhD supervisory committee should consist of five approved faculty members: the advisor, an external member (a graduate faculty member not affiliated with the Department of Mathematics), and three additional members. Usually at least three members of the committee are graduate faculty in the UF Department of Mathematics.

(e) **Time Limits**

The Ph.D. requirements must be completed by the end of the Summer B/C semester of the eighth calendar year after the first term enrolled in any University of Florida mathematics graduate program.

C. Master of Science

The Department of Mathematics offers three paths to a Master of Science degree, two by examination and one by thesis. We write MS (exam) for the Master of Science in Mathematics (examination option), MS (thesis) for the Master of Science in Applied Mathematics (thesis option), and MS Applied for the Master of Science in Applied Mathematics (examination option).

1. Total Credit Hours

The MS (exam) requires 32 credit hours; the other two degree plans require 33 credit hours.

2. Teaching requirement

Teach a minimum of one semester at the college level.

3. Courses

All three paths require successful completion of MAS 5311-5312 Introduction to Algebra and MAA 5228-5229 Modern Algebra.

The MS (exam) requires at least 18 credits of mathematics courses at the 6000+ level.

The MS Applied degree requires a specialization package either designed by the student with prior approval of the Graduate Committee or from a list available from the Graduate Coordinator. The typical package combines at least 12 credits of 6000+ mathematics with two or more graduate level courses from an area of application/specialization.

The MS (thesis) requires at least 12 credits of mathematics courses at the 6000+ level plus enrolling in MAT 6931 Masters Research during the term the student graduates. At most six credits of MAT 6931 toward the degree, and six credits spread over two terms are usually required to write a thesis.

Individual work in the form of MAT 6905, MAT 6910, MAE 6940 will not count toward the requirements for mathematics courses at the 6000+ level for any of the plans.

4. Examination for the Master of Science in Mathematics

Each student must pass three parts of the First Year Exam with a grade of Masters Pass or better, including one of the first four parts.

The First Year Exam, given in May, August and January, consists of six parts corresponding to the material covered in the six core courses:

- MAS 5311 Introduction to Algebra 1
- MAS 5312 Introduction to Algebra 2
- MAA 5228 Modern Analysis 1
- MAA 5229 Modern Analysis 2
- MTG 5316 Introduction to Topology 1
- MTG 5317 Introduction to Topology 2

After completing one of the core courses, a student may take the corresponding part of the First Year Exam only the first three times the exam is offered. A student may petition the Graduate Committee to substitute a passing grade on an exam on the material covered in MAD 6406 or MAD 6407 for one of these parts.

If the final part of the First Year Exam has been completed earlier than the term prior to the one in which the student applies for the Master of Science degree, the student must take an oral exam to ensure the final examination is comprehensive.

5. **Examinations for the Master of Science in Applied Mathematics**

Each student must obtain at least a Masters Pass on written exams in two of the following three areas: Analysis, Algebra and Numerical Analysis. The Analysis Exam is based on the courses MAA 5228-9; the Algebra Exam is based on the courses MAS 5311-2; the Numerical Analysis Exam is based on MAD 6406-7. If the exams have been passed more than one term prior to the term in which the student applies for the Master of Science degree, the student must take an oral exam to ensure the final examination is comprehensive.

6. **Thesis for the Master of Science in Applied Mathematics** (thesis option)

Each student must prepare and present a thesis acceptable in form and content to the supervisory committee and the Graduate School. It must contain some original research material.

Each student must defend the thesis in an oral exam administered by the supervisory committee.

7. **Satisfactory Progress Criteria**

- (a) Maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better in all classes and in all mathematics classes.
- (b) Complete at least two mathematics courses for 6 credits each semester.
- (c) The examination requirement should be completed by the May offering of the second academic year. Students who fail to pass one part by the First Year Exam by the August offering will be encouraged to shift to the MAT/MST program.
- (d) Complete the program in three years.

Remarks: The requirements for the M.S. degree changed on May 18, 2012. The previous rules may still be applied to students who have enrolled or signed up for the M.S. programs in Mathematics prior to May 18, 2012; see the graduate coordinator for details.

D. Master of Science/Arts in Teaching Mathematics

This degree is Master of Science in Teaching provided the minor (see 2 below) is in science, and is Master of Arts in Teaching otherwise.

1. Course Requirements

At least 36 semester hours of work must be completed. Usually at least 39 hours are necessary for the MAT degree and at least 45 hours are necessary for the MST degree. This must be distributed as indicated below. (Please consult the Course Guide for course abbreviations.)

- (a) 24 hours in mathematics courses numbered 5000 or above. This must include the sequences MAS 5311-2 and MAA 5228-9.
- (b) 6 hours in a suitable minor, at the 3000 level or above. (If education is selected as a minor, the courses must be numbered 6000 or above.)
- (c) 6 credit hours in a mathematics department teaching internship (MAE 6943). This requirement is waived for those with three years' teaching experience.
- (d) At least one course must be taken from each of three different areas among the following list: psychological foundations of education; social foundations of education; educational technology; counselor education; special education; and community college curriculum. Other areas may be added or substituted at the discretion of the supervisory committee. A list of acceptable courses may be obtained from the department graduate coordinator.

2. **Teaching Requirement:** One semester college teaching is required.

3. **Portfolio Requirement:** A teaching portfolio which includes at a minimum a curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, artifacts of teaching practice, e.g. sample quizzes, tests, homework assignments, syllabi, and reflections on teaching practice.

4. **Final Examination:** Near the conclusion of the program, a final comprehensive oral examination will be conducted by the student's supervisory committee. Passing the first year examination (see MS-MA requirements above) constitutes an acceptable substitute for this oral examination if completed no later than six months prior to graduation.

Remark: The requirements for the MST/MAT degrees changed on May 18, 2012. The prior rules may still be applied to students who have enrolled or signed up for the MST or MAT program in Mathematics prior to May 18, 2012; see the graduate coordinator for details.