Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Associate Professors: Brooke M. Andersen, Kevin J. Carlin, Robert M. Fry, Suzanne Kelton; Assistant Professors: Joseph A. Alfano (Chairperson), Matthew Creek, William Katcher; Visiting Instructor: Suzanne L. Kozak; Lecturers: Ali Al-Faris, Paul Chase, Pawan Gupta, Dana James, Karen McGrail, Gerald Taylor, Keith Trott, Maria Cevallos Warren.

MISSION STATEMENT: MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics program at Assumption College serves all students interested in mathematics and its applications in a supportive and stimulating learning environment. As mathematics is a founding discipline of the liberal arts, we support the mission of the college through our course offerings in the Core Curriculum. As mathematics is the language of science and quantitative analysis, we offer courses for majors in the sciences and business studies. For those students who become majors or minors in mathematics, we seek to develop their problem-solving skills, their reasoning abilities, and their knowledge of the various fields of mathematics. The major provides a foundation for professional careers, especially the teaching profession, and for graduate study in mathematics.

MAJOR IN ACTUARIAL SCIENCE (15)

The Actuarial Science major consists of a total of fifteen (15) required courses, which comprise seven specifically required courses in mathematics, six required courses in economics, and two in business studies:

REQUIRED COURSES (15)

First Year/Sophomore:
- MAT 131–132 Elementary Calculus I and II
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- MAT 117–118 Calculus I and II
- MAT 231–232 Intermediate Calculus I and II
- MAT 202 Discrete Structures
- MAT 208 Probability Theory
- ECO 110–111 Microeconomics and Macroeconomics
- ACC 125-126 Principles of Accounting I and II

Sophomore/Junior
- MAT 207 Actuarial Mathematics
- ECO 115 Statistics
- ECO 215 Econometrics I
- ECO 325 Corporate Finance
- ECO 357 Investment Theory

Senior Year
- Mathematics Oral Examination

RECOMMENDED COURSES

Students in Actuarial Science should also consider these additional courses, e.g. toward the pursuit of a minor in Finance or Economics.
- MAT 203 Linear Algebra
- MAT 332 Real Analysis
- MAT 355 Differential Equations
- CSC 113 Introduction to Computer Science
- CSC 117 Introduction to Programming
- CSC 175 Databases and Spreadsheets
- CSC 261 Simulation
Actuarial Science majors are encouraged — but not required — to take the first Actuarial Exam (Exam P, Probability, sponsored by the Society of Actuaries) soon after taking MAT 208. Exam P is a minimum requirement for entry into a summer internship or fulltime employment as an actuary in an insurance company program. Advanced students may also consider taking the second Actuarial Exam (Exam FM, Financial Mathematics) before graduation.

Course Descriptions

MATHEMATICS (MAT)

MAT 111 INTRODUCTORY MATHEMATICS
An introductory course in basic algebra which covers the following topics: properties of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, functions and graphs, polynomials, fractional algebra, radicals, and rational exponents. Not open to those who have completed any other mathematics course. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 114 ELEMENTARY FUNCTIONS
A survey of those topics in algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry which provide the background for the study of calculus. Topics to be covered include exponential and logarithmic functions, complex numbers and polynomial functions, trigonometry, plane analytic geometry, and systems of linear equations and inequalities. Not open to those who have completed MAT 117 or 113. Prerequisite: MAT 111 or departmental permission through placement. Counts in the Core Curriculum Requirements as Mathematics Group A. If only one Mathematics course is taken to fulfill the Core requirement in Mathematics, it must be at this level or higher. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 117 CALCULUS I
An introductory course in differential calculus. Topics to be covered include limits and continuity, the derivative and applications, and an introduction to integration. Not open to those who complete MAT 131. Prerequisite: MAT 114 or departmental permission through placement. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 118 CALCULUS II
The continuation of MAT 117. Topics to be covered include the definite integral and applications, elementary techniques of integration, partial derivatives, and first-order differential equations. Not open to those who complete MAT 131 or MAT 132. Prerequisite: MAT 117. (Fall, Spring)
Kelton/Three credits

MAT 131 ELEMENTARY CALCULUS I (Honors)
A more rigorous introduction to calculus for entering students with good backgrounds in mathematics. Recommended for students considering a major in mathematics. Topics include the real numbers, functions, limits, the derivative and applications, the integral and applications, and techniques of integration. Not open to those who complete MAT 117 or MAT 118. Prerequisite: Departmental permission through placement. (Fall)
Carlin/Three credits

MAT 132 ELEMENTARY CALCULUS II (Honors)
A more rigorous introduction to calculus for entering students with good backgrounds in mathematics. Recommended for students considering a major in mathematics. Topics include the real numbers, functions, limits, the derivative and applications,
the integral and applications, and techniques of integration. Not open to those who complete MAT 117 or MAT 118. Prerequisite: Departmental permission through placement. (Spring)

Carlin/Three credits

MAT 150 NUMBERS AND OPERATIONS FOR EDUCATORS
In this course, students will investigate fundamental mathematics concepts associated with numbers, operations, and patterns. One of the major goals of the course is for students to develop deeper conceptual understandings of the mathematics concepts they will teach in the elementary and middle grades. Not only will students gain computational proficiency but also the ability to explain to students, in multiple ways, why mathematics concepts make sense. The course heavily emphasizes the use of open-ended problem-solving methods of teaching and learning to help students develop their own functional understanding of the major concepts. A significant focus of this course will be on problem solving, reasoning and proof, multiple representations, recognizing connections (across mathematics and other disciplines), and mathematical communication. The course is intended for students planning on pursuing a career in elementary or middle school education. As such, particular attention is given to understanding common misconceptions that children have when learning about specific mathematics concepts and considering the ramifications of these misconceptions for the development of effective classroom instruction. This course is a prerequisite for EDU 324: Mathematics Teaching in the Elementary Classroom. Prerequisite: MAT 114 or higher. (Fall, Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 151 ALGEBRA, GEOMETRY, AND DATA ANALYSIS FOR EDUCATORS
In this course, students will investigate fundamental mathematics concepts associated with algebra, geometry, and data analysis. One of the major goals of the course is for students to develop deeper conceptual understandings of the mathematics concepts they will teach in the elementary and middle grades. Not only will students gain computational proficiency but also the ability to explain to students, in multiple ways, why mathematics concepts make sense. The course heavily emphasizes the use of open-ended problem-solving methods of teaching and learning to help students develop their own functional understanding of the major concepts. A significant focus of this course will be on problem solving, reasoning and proof, multiple representations, recognizing connections (across content areas and disciplines), and mathematical communication. The course is intended for students planning on pursuing a career in elementary or middle school education. As such, particular attention is given to understanding common misconceptions that children have when learning about specific mathematics concepts and considering the ramifications of these misconceptions for the development of effective classroom instruction. Recommended for elementary education majors and middle/secondary mathematics education majors. Prerequisite: MAT 114 or higher. (Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 202 DISCRETE STRUCTURES
This course is an introduction to mathematical logic and discrete systems. Topics include Boolean algebra, mathematical proof, sets, relations, functions, induction, combinatorics, graph theory, and applications. Prerequisite: MAT 118 or MAT 132 must be completed or taken concurrently. (Fall)
Creek/Three credits

MAT 203 LINEAR ALGEBRA
Linear systems of equations, matrix algebra, determinants, vector spaces, linear transformations, matrix representations of linear transformations, and applications. Prerequisite: MAT 202. (Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 204 NUMBER THEORY
Divisibility theory, prime factorization, congruences, Fermat’s theorems, the phi-function, Euler’s Theorem, and applications. Prerequisite: MAT 202. (Spring 2020, Spring 2022)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 207 ACTUARIAL MATHEMATICS
Mathematical theory and practical application of compound interest, including the measurement of interest, annuity calculations, loan repayment, and security valuation. Stress laid on theoretical foundations, derivations, and proofs. Introduction to financial simulation. Prerequisite: MAT 202. (Fall 2018, Fall 2020)
Katcher/Three credits
MAT 208  PROBABILITY THEORY
Combinatorial problems, conditional probability, dependence and independence, probability measures, distributions, and stochastic processes. Prerequisite: MAT 118. (Spring)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 231  CALCULUS III
A second-year course in calculus, designed to follow either MAT 118 or MAT 132. Topics to be covered include improper integrals, sequences and series, parametric curves, polar coordinates, and vector geometry. Prerequisite: MAT 118 or MAT 132. (Fall)
Creek/Three credits

MAT 232  MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS
A course in the calculus of functions of several variables. Topics to be covered include multivariable functions, partial derivatives, multiple integrals and the theorems of Green, Gauss, and Stokes. Prerequisite: MAT 231. (Spring)
Creek/Three credits

MAT 332  REAL ANALYSIS
A course in classical real analysis. Topics to be covered include the real number system; convergence of sequences; limits and continuity of functions; differentiation; and integration. Prerequisite: MAT 232 or permission of instructor. (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 351  MODERN ALGEBRA I
An introductory course in abstract algebra. This course will cover the theory of groups and the definitions of rings and fields. Prerequisite: MAT 202. (Fall 2018, Fall 2020)
Kelton/Three credits

MAT 352  MODERN ALGEBRA II
The continuation of MAT 351. Topics include advanced group theory, and the theory of rings and fields. Prerequisite: MAT 351. (Spring 2019, Spring 2021)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 353  ADVANCED EUCLIDEAN GEOMETRY
Theorems of Menelaus and Ceva. Euler line and nine-point circle. Cross-ratio, harmonic division, and orthogonality of circles. Inversive geometry. Theorems of Pappus, Desargues, and Pascal. Elementary transformations. Prerequisite: MAT 118 or MAT 132. (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)
Andersen/Three credits

MAT 355  DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS
First and second order differential equations. Linear differential equations and linear systems. Existence and uniqueness theorems. Applications. Prerequisite: MAT 232 must be completed or taken concurrently. (Spring 2019, Spring 2021)
Carlin/Three credits

MAT 356  NUMERICAL ANALYSIS
Roots of equations. Analysis of errors. Convergence. Interpolation and polynomial approximation. Numerical differentiation and integration. Solving linear systems, unstable matrices. The computer is used throughout the course. Prerequisite: MAT 118 or MAT 132. (Spring 2020, Spring 2022)
Staff/Three credits

MAT 358  TOPOLOGY
An introductory treatment of both point-set and combinatorial topology. Topics to be covered include topological spaces and metric spaces, classification of surfaces, homology (mod 2), and map-coloring theorems. Prerequisite: MAT 202, and MAT 232 or permission of instructor. (Spring 2020, Spring 2022)
Staff/Three credits
MAT 401  MATHEMATICS SEMINAR
The topic is determined by the instructor. Emphasis is placed on student oral presentations. Required course for senior mathematics majors. (Fall)
Alfano/Three credits

MAT 402  MATHEMATICS THESIS
Available only to highly qualified students. Under the direction of an individual instructor, each student will complete a thesis (either expository or research) on some advanced topic in mathematics. (Spring)
Staff/Three credits

NOTE: Semesters given with a year indicate courses that are offered in alternate years.