

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.

MINOR IN MATHEMATICS (6)

A minor in mathematics consists of six courses, which must include:

MAT 131–132 Elementary Calculus I and II

OR

MAT 117–118 Calculus I and II

MAT 202 Discrete Structures

The remaining courses may be chosen from the mathematics courses numbered above 200 with at least one course numbered above 300.

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 131. 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 department 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*

MAT132 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: MAT202. (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)

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.