Admission Requirements

Students entering the Master of Science in Mathematics degree program are normally expected to have completed an undergraduate degree program, including coursework equivalent to a major in Mathematics. Other students may be admitted at the discretion of the Departmental Graduate Committee, with admission conditional upon the student completing specified deficiencies. Applicants are strongly encouraged to take the general part of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Priority for assistantships is given to applicants with high quantitative GRE scores. All students must meet the general admission requirements of the School of Graduate Studies and have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 2.75 or a GPA of 3.0 or higher for the last two years of undergraduate work.

Degree Requirements

Degree requirements of this 36-semester hour (sh) program consist of 18 sh of core courses, 6 sh of mathematics directed electives, and 12 sh of focus area courses that allow for focus in a single area in mathematics, or another area of study outside of the Department of Mathematics, as sanctioned by the Departmental Graduate Committee. For example, the focus area courses may be in applied mathematics, PhD pursuit, statistics, teaching of mathematics, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, decision sciences, economics, environmental science, finance, or physics. Focus area courses will share a common thread with the first 6 sh taken as MATH 599 and/or MATH 596, or as directed electives from another department. The second 6 sh of the focus area courses may also be earned through directed electives; or in special topics (MATH 699) and/or thesis (MATH 600), and/or project (MATH 601), and/or internship (MATH 602).

Integrated Baccalaureate and Master's Degree in Mathematics

The integrated baccalaureate and master’s degree program provides an opportunity for academically strong undergraduate Mathematics majors to complete both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees in five years. The program is designed to provide an accelerated alternative to traditional programs by preparing students who would pursue a career in business, industry, or government, as well as to train mathematicians who would pursue further study toward a doctoral degree in mathematics. The applicant must have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher and a major GPA of 3.25 or higher and must complete 60 sh of college coursework with at least 21 sh of mathematics, to include MATH 231, 280, 311, and 341 with grades of no less than B, before applying for admission to the integrated program. For more information, visit wiu.edu/graduate_studies/catalog/mathematics.php.

Certificate in Applied Mathematics

The post-baccalaureate certificate program in Applied Mathematics is designed for graduate-level students who wish to gain expertise in a broad range of applied mathematics, including applications of mathematics to industry, sciences, finance, computer science, economics, and more. The program provides preparation in applied mathematics based on sound and rooted theory, thus providing the typical student with the opportunity to pursue and find employment in the professional sector or in education, or to continue further advanced studies. The program consists of four core courses and two focus area courses, and is the first of two steps which lead to the MS degree in Mathematics. For Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment.
Faculty Expertise
All of the 25 tenured and tenure-track graduate faculty members have a PhD in an area of mathematics or statistics. They teach graduate courses, conduct and publish research in their areas of specialization, and serve on various committees in the Department of Mathematics. The graduate faculty members have expertise in the following areas: algebra and combinatorics; applied mathematics; geometry, topology, and analysis; logic; mathematics education; and statistics.

Assistantship Opportunities
All MS degree students in Mathematics who have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above are eligible to apply for a graduate assistantship or a teaching assistantship. Students with assistantships will receive a monthly stipend and a waiver of tuition. All full-time graduate assistants are required to work up to 20 hours per week; all ¾-time graduate assistants work 13 hours per week. Teaching assistants are required to teach up to 6 s.h. per semester. Probationary students are not eligible for assistantships.

All Graduate and Teaching Assistants must enroll for a required minimum number of coursework hours which apply toward their degree programs. Graduate Assistants must enroll in at least 9 s.h., and Teaching Assistants for at least 6 s.h. If it is the student’s last semester and they have filed a degree plan, they may enroll for only the number of semester hours needed to complete their degree requirements. Graduate and Teaching Assistants must maintain a 3.0 GPA and exhibit satisfactory progress toward their degrees in order to retain their assistantships.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.

Featured Alumni
Our alumni continue their academic career in pursuit of doctoral programs, teach in colleges or universities, or secure jobs in business institutions across the country. Some share their experiences at Western:

“My experience in the WIU MS program has been challenging and extremely rewarding. My professors have pushed me to gain a deeper understanding of mathematics while providing great support and encouragement to succeed. Overall, it has been a wonderful experience I will never forget, and I am happy I chose to attend WIU.”

– Erika Hodgson, MS, 2013

“Through the program, I gained a lot of knowledge in mathematics as well as in working with software such as MATLAB and Mathematica. The faculty members are welcoming and helpful, which makes the program enjoyable. My advice is to not limit yourself to the classroom—also seek out independent study with the faculty. That is when you learn the most!”

– Franck Njeunje, MS, 2013

“The faculty was great in helping me with my studies, scheduling, preparation, and job search. I was able to get the specific education I wanted with the applied orientation and worked in the Physics department as well as the Math department. The courses were well-planned, and the professors were outstanding.”

– Scott T. Zuehlke, MS, May 2010

Contact Information
For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact the Graduate Coordinator, Department of Mathematics, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1054, wiu.edu/mathematics.