



WESTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MATHEMATICS

Higher Values in Higher Education

Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

The graduate program in the Western Illinois University Department of Mathematics prepares students for needed professions in the region and nationwide. It also provides students with solid, graduate-level training in the fundamental methods of continuous and discrete mathematics. Both the theoretical framework and the applications of these methods are covered in the core courses. The 500-level core courses have a significant lean toward applications, but theory is also present. The 600-level core courses have a significant lean toward theory, but applications are not abandoned. The program consists of two steps: (1) six courses that lead to a Certificate in Applied Mathematics, and (2) six additional courses that lead to a Master of Science degree in Mathematics.



Program Location: Macomb

Admission Requirements

Students entering WIU's 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 WIU School of Graduate Studies, and have a cumulative undergraduate grade point average 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 596 and/or MATH 599, 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, 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.

Faculty Expertise

All of the 24 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 WIU 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 tuition waiver. All full-time graduate assistants are required to work up to 20 hours per week; all two-thirds time graduate assistants work 13 hours per week. Teaching assistants are required to teach up to 6 SH 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 SH, and teaching assistants for at least 6 SH. 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 an assistantship.

“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

WIU.EDU/MATHEMATICS



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.

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.

“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