


Victoria Baramidze

Department Chair | Academic Leader | Professor of Mathematics

Department of Mathematics and Philosophy
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455



Administrative Experience and Leadership

Chair, Department of Mathematics and Philosophy

Western Illinois University | July 2020–Present

Interim Chair, Department of Mathematics and Philosophy

Western Illinois University | July 2018–June 2020

Quality Manager

International Black Sea University | 2012–2013

As Department Chair, I serve as the chief academic and administrative officer for a comprehensive mathematics department with undergraduate and graduate programs. I provide strategic leadership in curriculum, budgeting, faculty development, recruitment and retention, assessment, and governance, and report directly to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Core Responsibilities

- Strategic planning, assessment, and long-range program development
- Faculty recruitment, mentoring, evaluation, tenure, and promotion
- Budget preparation, allocation, and fiscal oversight
- Curriculum oversight for undergraduate and graduate programs
- Student recruitment and retention
- Oversight of contractually binding documents and compliance obligations
- Student grievance review and academic policy enforcement
- Departmental governance and committee leadership
- Teaching and instructional oversight

Selected Administrative Achievements

Enrollment Growth and Program Sustainability

- Led the recovery and growth of the mathematics major from **17 students (Fall 2020) to 34 students (Fall 2023)**, representing 100% growth in three years.

- Increased mathematics minors from **37 to 55 students** between Fall 2020 and Fall 2023.
- Stabilized and expanded the M.S. in Mathematics program following a **37.5% reduction in graduate assistantship funding**, achieving sustained enrollment of 17–18 students.
- Launched a fully online **M.S. in Teaching Mathematics** cohort program enrolling 13–14 students annually.
- Coordinated approval for online delivery of the M.S. in Mathematics and expansion of the mathematics major to the Quad Cities campus.

Curriculum and Academic Innovation

- Redesigned the mathematics major to support interdisciplinary pathways and double majors.
- Developed new degree options in **Data Science and Statistics** and **Actuarial Science**.
- Created a **Minor in Applied Mathematics**.
- Initiated and implemented a comprehensive restructuring of entry-level mathematics courses and placement procedures.
- Oversaw articulation agreements and a **2+2 partnership** with Black Hawk College.

Recruitment, Retention, and Outreach

- Developed and implemented a recruitment plan, including early scholarship awards for incoming students.
- Established a faculty Recruitment Coordinator role to improve communication with admitted students.
- Led targeted retention initiatives for STEM, nursing, and service-course populations.
- Expanded departmental visibility through coordinated web, social media, and video outreach.
- Hosted regional mathematics competitions (AMC 8, AMC 10/12, ICTM) and annual teacher conferences.

Faculty Development and Support

- Revised departmental criteria, workload equivalencies, and committee structures.
- Supported faculty scholarship through travel funding, grant assistance, and award nominations.
- Negotiated on behalf of faculty regarding workload, evaluation, and resources.
- Modernized administrative workflows to improve efficiency amid reduced office support.

Budget and Resource Management

- Managed sustained operating budget reductions totaling a factor of 2.6 while maintaining program quality.

- Secured funds for technology upgrades, computer labs, research mini-labs, and livestream-enabled classrooms.
 - Raised external and internal funds to support graduate assistantships and student scholarships.
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Faculty Appointments

Professor of Mathematics, Western Illinois University | 2016–Present

Associate Professor, Western Illinois University | 2014–2016; 2009–2011

Associate Professor, International Black Sea University | 2012–2013

Assistant Professor, Western Illinois University | 2005–2009

Teaching Experience (Selected)

Undergraduate and graduate instruction in calculus, applied mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, differential equations, scientific computing, and mathematical modeling. Extensive experience teaching service courses, STEM core sequences, and graduate-level mathematics.

Scholarship

Research Interests: Numerical analysis, spline theory, computational PDEs, applied mathematics, data analysis

Selected Publications:

- Baramidze, V., & Baramidze, G. (2025). Numerical Integration on Spherical Triangles by Means of Cubic Interpolation. *Journal of Applied Mathematics and Computing*.
 - Baramidze, V., M. J. Lai, Nonnegative data interpolation by spherical splines, *Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics*, 2018, Volume 342, pp 463-477.
 - Baramidze, V., & Lai, M. J. (2011). Convergence of Discrete and Penalized Least Squares Spherical Splines. *Journal of Approximation Theory*.
 - Baramidze, V., & Lai, M. J. (2006). Spherical Splines for Data Interpolation and Fitting. *SIAM Journal on Scientific Computing*.
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Service and Outreach (Selected)

- University, college, and departmental committee leadership, including Chairs Council and Provost advisory groups
 - Instructor for Math Summer Enrichment Programs
 - Coordinator of tutoring and outreach initiatives
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Education

Ph.D. in Mathematics, University of Georgia, 2005

M.S. in Applied Mathematical Sciences, University of Georgia, 1999

Diploma in Physics, Tbilisi State University, 1992