2 Mathematics at WSU

For most of a century there has been a Department of Mathematics at WSU, where a bachelor's degree with a major in mathematics, a master's degree in mathematics, and (since 1959) a doctorate in mathematics have been offered.

The Department of Mathematics boasts 34 tenured or tenure-track faculty and 3 clinical faculty, all of whom are active scholars and researchers as well as committed teachers. Most of them are known nationally for research or for their involvement in projects that support mathematics and mathematics education. Faculty in our department collaborate with faculty from universities around the world, which includes conducting research at other universities and having mathematicians visit our department.

Recently, the number of graduate students has risen to over 80, each of whom is working toward a MS, PhD, or both. For details about the graduate degree programs in mathematics at WSU, see the Graduate Studies link at www.math.wsu.edu. Many of our graduate students hold either graduate teaching assistantships of graduate research assistantships, which provide financial support for their study along with experience as teachers and researchers, respectively.

The number of undergraduate students majoring in mathematics varies from year to year, but we currently have approximately 100 certified majors and 80 pre-certified students. Approximately one third of the certified students are focusing on secondary education, which prepares students to be high school teachers. In addition, about one third of our students are part of our growing Actuarial Science program. This year, we are introducing two new courses to meet the increasing needs of Actuarial Science students; one course designed to help students study for Exam P – Probability, and one designed to help students study for Exam FM – Financial Management.

Many of our students also have a second major. We currently have students double majoring in business, economics, computer science, engineering, physics, chemistry, history, and music. Rather than a double major, some students are opting for a Certificate in Quantitative Biology, which combines several courses in Mathematics and Biology that is usually an add-on to either a degree in Mathematics or a degree in Biology.

Our undergraduate students come from all over the state of Washington, and all over the globe. Many of our students are excellent scholars with outstanding records, and have been amply represented in the Honors Program, the McNair Achievements Program, and have participated in several undergraduate research programs.

The Department of Mathematics is located in Neill Hall, on the south side of campus. A directory of faculty and staff offices is on the wall in the foyer, and there is a directory with office hours located outside the main office, Neill 103. The Neill Hall houses three computer laboratories; Neill 3, Neill 101W, and Neill 120, with a fourth laboratory located in Thompson 1. The department also oversees the Math Learning Center in Cleveland 130, where students can receive free tutoring. The departmental website at www.math.wsu.edu contains further information about the department and its educational and research programs.