Mathematics, Ph.D.

The department offers the doctor of philosophy degree with a major in mathematics and a master of arts degree in mathematics.

The Ph.D. degree requires proficiency in basic and advanced graduate mathematics and the completion of a dissertation containing a significant piece of original research in some area of mathematics. The scope of the research program in mathematics is broad. The Ph.D. specialty and dissertation may be in any area of mathematics, including but not limited to algebra, algebraic geometry, applied mathematics, combinatorics, computational mathematics, complex analysis, differential equations, differential geometry, dynamical systems, harmonic analysis, logic, mathematical biology, number theory, probability, and topology. A complete list of faculty and their areas of expertise is available through the department website (https://www.math.wisc.edu/graduate).

Students in the Ph.D. program also have the option to earn a master of arts degree (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/mathematics/mathematics-ma).

Admissions

Admission is competitive. Applicants to the Ph.D. program are automatically considered for financial support. For more information about application to the Ph.D. and M.A. programs, see the department’s admission website (https://www.math.wisc.edu/graduate/admissions).

Graduate School Admissions

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

Funding

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

Program Resources

Prospective students should see the program website for funding information (https://www.math.wisc.edu/graduate/financialsupport).

Requirements

Minimum Graduate School Requirements

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/).
Language Requirements

No language requirements.

Doctoral Minor/
Breadth Requirements

All doctoral students are required to complete a 12-credit minor.

REQUIRED COURSES

Take a total of 54 graduate credits, or generally 18 courses. This includes courses in math and in a minor. In the Ph.D. program, math courses numbered above 700 are for graduate credit. Math courses below 700 must be approved by the academic advisor.

There are five general and overlapping areas of specialization within the department:

- Algebra, Algebraic Geometry, Combinatorics and Number theory
- Analysis, Differential Equations and Probability
- Applied and Computational Mathematics
- Logic
- Geometry and Topology

There is also a specialty in Mathematics Education. The course requirement is the same as for the other specialties except that the required 54 credits should include 18 credits in courses that relate to mathematics education, and at least one of the courses must be on research techniques in education. The 18 credits may come (wholly or in part) from courses included in the minor.

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Graduate Program Handbook (https://www.math.wisc.edu/graduate_gsh_toc) is the repository for all of the program’s policies and requirements.

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions

With program approval, students in the Ph.D. program are allowed to count no more than 22 credits of graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate

No more than 7 credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to count toward the degree. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special

With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 15 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison Special student. Coursework earned ten years or more prior to admission to a doctoral degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION

The Graduate School regularly reviews the record of any student who earned grades of BC, C, D, F, or Incomplete in a graduate course (300 or above), or grade of U in research credits. This review could result in academic probation with a hold on future enrollment or in being suspended from the Graduate School.

1. Good standing (progressing according to standards; any funding guarantee remains in place).
2. Probation (not progressing according to standards but permitted to enroll; loss of funding guarantee; specific plan with dates and deadlines in place in regard to removal of probationary status).
3. Unsatisfactory progress (not progressing according to standards; not permitted to enroll, dismissal, leave of absence or change of advisor or program).

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

Students who are not yet working with a dissertation advisor are required to meet semiannually with their academic advisor. All students must have a dissertation advisor by the end of the sixth semester.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED

15 credits. Minimum of 6/semester, other than dissertators.

TIME CONSTRAINTS

Eight years. Extensions have to be approved by the program.

A candidate for a doctoral degree who fails to take the final oral examination and deposit the dissertation within five years after passing the preliminary examination may by require to take another preliminary examination and to be admitted to candidacy a second time.

Doctoral degree students who have been absent for ten or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence. Individual programs may count the coursework students completed prior to their absence for meeting program requirements; that coursework may not count toward Graduate School credit requirements.

OTHER

n/a
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School’s professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Learn a substantial body of mathematics in introductory and research level graduate courses in mathematics.

2. Complete a dissertation under the guidance of an advisor. The dissertation should make an original and substantive contribution to its subject matter.

3. Demonstrate breadth within the learning experiences.

4. Present research in seminar talks, conferences or publications.

5. Communicate complex ideas in a clear and understandable manner.

6. Foster ethical and professional conduct.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Anderson, Angenent, Arinkin, Assadi, Bolotin, Boston, Căldăraru, Craciun, Denissov, Ellenberg, Feldman, Gong, Jin, Lemp, Mari Beffa (chair), Maxim, Miller, Mitchell, Paul, Roch, Seeger, Seppäläinen, Smith, Terwilliger, Thiffeault, Valko, Waleffe, M. Wood, Yang; Associate Professors Dymarz, Gurevich, Kent, Stechmann, Street, Yin; Assistant Professors Andrews, Erman, Ifrim, Kim, Li, Marshall, Sam, Soskova, Spagnolie, Stovall, Tran, Bi. Wang, Bo. Wang, L. Wang, P. Wood; Affiliate Faculty Bach, Cai, Del Pia, Ferris, Ron, Sifakis.