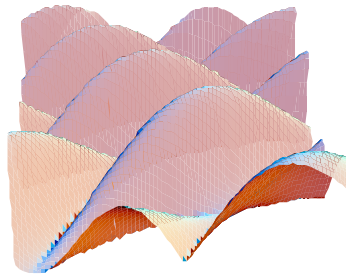


Department of Mathematics

To appeal to the broad range of student interests, our mathematics curriculum touches on most major branches of mathematics—pure (calculus, algebra, geometry, topology, and number theory) and applied (applied analysis, discrete and continuous modeling, probability, statistics, and operations research).

The department has a flexible major program, readily tailored to meet particular goals and interests. We also have many course offerings for non-majors and for students who study mathematics in conjunction with other majors.



Mathematics at Oberlin

In addition to academic work, the Mathematics Department sponsors numerous student-oriented activities. The department has an active Majors Committee, which gathers input on curriculum, assists in the evaluation of faculty, and plans special events (including picnics and mathematics games nights). Mathematics students and faculty meet regularly (once a month) for an informal pizza lunch, that features a talk on a mathematical subject. Oberlin also fields a team in the William Lowell Putnam Competition, a prestigious nationwide mathematics contest. Over 30 mathematics majors and other students are employed in part-time jobs on the Oberlin College campus in such positions as graders, tutors, and assistants for the beginning mathematics courses.

Each year the strongest junior majors are invited to apply to the Honors Program. In Honors, a student works closely with a supervising faculty member during their senior year, studying some subject and usually going well beyond the normal undergraduate curriculum.

The Mathematics Department also hosts visiting lecturers throughout the school year. One of these distinguished visitors actually takes over an advanced class for a week.

Mathematics after Oberlin

Approximately 20 students graduate each year from Oberlin College with a major in mathematics (including a number of students with double majors). These majors pursue diverse careers after graduation. Some go on to graduate studies in pure or applied mathematics, statistics, operations research, computer science, or actuarial science. Oberlin graduates, in fact, have earned more Ph.D. degrees in mathematics than students from any other predominately undergraduate institution in the United States. Some of the universities where recent Oberlin mathematics majors have entered doctoral programs are: Carnegie-Mellon, Chicago, Cornell, Harvard, Michigan, MIT, and Yale.

A number of majors go on to attend medical and law schools, and still others take advanced degrees in graduate schools of business administration, public health, urban and public affairs, or other graduate programs.

Finally, many majors go directly to varied careers in government, business, and elementary and secondary education. Employers generally value highly educated students with strong mathematical backgrounds, often without regard to the specific technical coursework studied.

Miscellaneous Information

The department awards two prizes in mathematics. The Orr Prize (\$3000) is awarded to the graduating senior who has demonstrated significant ability and promise for future development in mathematics. The Baum Prize of \$100 is awarded to the Oberlin College student who achieves the highest score on the William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition.

If you visit Oberlin, please attend a mathematics class and/or discuss the Mathematics Department with any member of the department. Departmental offices are located on the second floor of the King Building. Adjoining the department office is a library/workroom containing a collection of mathematics books plus information on graduate schools and professional opportunities in the mathematical sciences.

Mathematics Department Faculty

Robert Bosch

Robert and Eleanor Biggs Professor of Natural Science (1991)
B.A., Oberlin College (1985)
M.S., Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (1987)
Ph.D., Yale University (1991)

Susan J. Colley

Andrew and Pauline Delaney Professor (1983)
B.S., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1979)
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1983)

Michael Henle

Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science (1970)
B.A., Swarthmore College (1965)
M.A., Yale University (1967)
M. Phil., Yale University (1969)
Ph.D., Yale University (1970)

Kay M. Knight

Lecturer, Developmental Mathematics Instructor (1997)
B.S.E., University of Central Arkansas (1969)
M.S.E., Louisiana State University (1973)

Oliver Schirokauer

Associate Professor (1992)
B.S. Yale College (1984)
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (1992)

James Walsh

Professor (1991)
B.S., University of Connecticut (1980)
M.A., Fairfield University (1985)
M.A., Boston University (1988)
Ph.D., Boston University (1991)

Elizabeth Wilmer

Associate Professor (1998)
A.B., Harvard University (1991)
A.M., Harvard University (1996)
Ph.D., Harvard University (1999)

Jeffrey A. Witmer

Professor (1986)
B.S., University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (1979)
Ph.D., University of Minnesota (1983)

Kevin Woods

Assistant Professor (2006)
B.S., Wake Forest University (2000)
Ph.D., University of Michigan (2004)

Robert M. Young,

J.F. Clark Professor (1971)
B.A., Colby College (1965)
Ph.D., University of Michigan (1971)

Revised 9/2006