Transfer QuickGuide

Math at UNC

Are you a transfer student interested in majoring in math while at UNC Chapel Hill? Here are a few helpful tips:

General information about the Math Program
(UNC-Chapel Hill Undergraduate Bulletin, 2016)
Mathematics is a fundamental component of human thought and culture, and the growth of technology in recent times has further increased its importance. Students majoring in mathematics may enter either the BA or the BS program. The BA program is more flexible than the BS program; it allows students to specialize in mathematics and follow a broad liberal arts program or specialize in a second area (possibly even taking a second major).

The BS program is more comprehensive; it provides solid preparation for work or for further study in mathematics and related fields. Within the BS program there is an applied option, which is designed for students who are primarily interested in using mathematics for the study of other sciences.

Careers and Skills // A major in math will prepare you for a variety of careers.
A few jobs that involve mathematics include actuary, analyst, modeler, optimizer, statistician, and computer analyst. The best thing about these jobs is that they can serve a variety of fields. Indeed, mathematics can explore everything from how an athlete’s biomechanics work to help or hinder their performance, to how a building will react to an earthquake, to the effect of social media on the spread of information. Beyond this, the ability to be analytical and to work to solve problems opens many doors and allows majors in mathematics to be creative in what they pursue. For example, mathematicians may explore careers in economics, computer science, social science, geography, or even business!

Does it matter if I get a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts?
For entry into most career tracks, what matters most are the courses taken, grades earned, and pertinent experiences (e.g., service learning, undergraduate research, or post-baccalaureate work), not necessarily the degree earned. It is an individual decision to select a BA or a BS; however, we strongly recommend that transfer students consider the time it will take to complete their degree prior to transferring to UNC. We also recommend that new transfer students take no more than two science and math courses during their first semester at UNC, as science courses can be challenging and time consuming. As it is often challenging to fit all the requirements for a BS in the time allotted to transfer students, all students interested in pursuing a BS in math should contact Academic Advising as soon as they matriculate to discuss their options and schedule.
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Major Requirements // If you plan to transfer with junior status and graduate with a BA or BS from UNC, we recommend completing these courses prior to transferring.

To pursue either the BA or BS complete:

☐ MATH 231 – Calculus of Functions of One Variable I
☐ MATH 232 – Calculus of Functions of One Variable II
☐ MATH 233 – Calculus of Functions of Several Variables

If you wish to pursue a BS, you should also complete:

☐ PHYS 116 – Mechanics
☐ PHYS 117 – Electromagnetism and Optics
☐ At least two courses in the Natural Sciences outside of Mathematics *

In addition to the above courses, by the time you graduate from UNC you will need to take the following courses:

To pursue either the BA or the BS complete:

☐ MATH 381 – Discrete Mathematics
☐ MATH 383 – First Course in Differential Equations
☐ MATH 521 – Advanced Calculus
☐ Math 547 or Math 577 – Linear Algebra for Applications or Linear Algebra
☐ Three (3) Math courses numbered 500 or higher

If you wish to pursue a BS, you should also complete:

One of the following:
☐ MATH 522 – Advanced Calculus II
☐ MATH 523 – Functions of a Complex Variable with Applications
☐ MATH 528 – Mathematical Methods for the Physical Sciences I
☐ Math 566 – Introduction to Numerical Analysis

One of the following:
☐ MATH 533 – Elementary Theory of Numbers
☐ MATH 534 – Elements of Modern Algebra
☐ MATH 548 – Combinatorial Mathematics
☐ MATH 578 – Algebraic Structures

One of the following:
☐ MATH 565 – Computer-Assisted Mathematical Problem Solving
☐ COMP 116 – Introduction to Scientific Programming

☐ At least two course in the Natural Sciences outside of Mathematics * (for a total of 4)

*Please note: There is also an Applied Math concentration not described here; see the bulletin for details.
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Why major in Math at UNC?
Math can help you understand almost anything you can think of and is a growing field!

“I consider myself fortunate to be a part of the UNC Math department. Not only are the professors great at teaching but they are also some of the best researchers in the nation. There are many exciting opportunities to take part in cutting edge research. Most of the math classes I have taken are around thirty people so I get the “small school” feel while being at a large university. Some of the classes are challenging but those are the classes where you learn the most and grow as a student. The professors are very easy to talk to and they are always willing to help. Also, there is a Carolina Math Club, CMC for short, where you can engage both your academic and social skills. Join us in the Math department at UNC!” — Mark Eyster, Transfer Student, 2016

Important Links
If you are a prospective transfer student and have additional questions about majoring in math at UNC, please refer to one of the links below or contact the UNC admissions office (admissions.unc.edu/contact-us/).

Math Department Homepage: math.unc.edu/
Undergraduate Bulletin: unc.edu/ugradbulletin/depts/math.html
Resources for Student Success: studentsuccess.unc.edu
Transfer Resources: transfers.unc.edu
Summer School at UNC: summer.unc.edu
What Can I Do with This Major? maa.org/careers
Will my courses transfer? admissions.unc.edu/credit/credit/transfer-equivalencies/
Where will I place in Math? math.unc.edu/for-undergrads/placement-info

You can also connect with the Math Department on Facebook (UNC Department of Mathematics) online at math.unc.edu, or, after you matriculate to UNC, with the department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies via email at rimany@email.unc.edu for Richard Rimanyi or contact David Adalsteinsson (david@unc.edu) for transfer questions.