




LORAS
COLLEGE™

MATHEMATICS



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Why Become a Math Major?

- Three of the four top jobs in America in 2011 were math-based. According to CareerCast.com, mathematician, actuary, and statistician are three of the best careers to have.
- A degree in mathematics prepares you to argue rigorously, think abstractly, and creatively problem-solve. Employers value these skills, giving math majors the edge in a wide variety of careers.
- Math majors score highest on graduate entrance exams. A study by the National Institute of Education found that on average, math majors scored higher than any other major on the LSAT and GMAT.

Why Major in Math at Loras?

- Students can work individually with a Loras professor to discover new mathematics. Recent undergraduate research projects include modeling the H1N1 flu virus outbreak on campus, predicting baseball pennant winners, investigating the mathematics of origami, developing video game physics, and using game theory to model college-recruiting strategies.
- Students can travel to conferences to meet new people and share their discoveries. Our math majors regularly present their work at the Pi Mu Epsilon Regional Undergraduate Math Conference in the fall and the Midwest Undergraduate Mathematics Symposium in the spring.
- Students hear of developments in the field by staying on campus, too. Loras College is co-host of the weekly Bi-State Math Colloquium with UW-Platteville. Speakers for the colloquium series include professors and graduate students from colleges and universities in the region presenting talks ranging from brand new research to the ancient history of math.
- Students can compete in a variety of college-level regional and national math competitions. In the fall of 2009, Loras College won the Iowa Mathematical Modeling Competition, besting teams from the University of Iowa, Coe College, and Wartburg College.
- Students have lots of support. In addition to regular office hours, the math faculty hold Math Lab in the library 12 hours a week. They also host Thursday Nights at the Heidenreichs' and Tasty Tuesdays in Hennessy in the evenings for homework help and fellowship.

What Are the Requirements?

The math major has three tracks, each approximately 38 credits, tailored to different mathematical careers. In addition to standard coursework, each major completes either a one-semester capstone class, in which students work in groups for a collaborative research experience, or a three-semester seminar sequence, in which students pursue individual undergraduate research projects with faculty advisors.

- Students interested in pursuing advanced study in mathematics can specialize in Pure Mathematics.
- Students who wish to use mathematics in industry or want to supplement majors in fields such as engineering, computer science, economics, or chemistry, among others, can specialize in Applied Mathematics.
- Students planning to teach high school mathematics can specialize in Mathematics Secondary Education.

Where Are Our Recent Graduates?

- **Kyle Soeder ('11)** majored in Mathematics and Computer Science and is now a software engineer at Sierra Nevada Corporation in Washington, D.C.
- **Erinn Sanstead ('11)** majored in Mathematics and Biochemistry and is now a graduate student in epidemiology at the University of Minnesota.
- **Mark LeRoy ('10)** majored in Mathematics and Engineering and now works for Epic, a respected health care software company, in Madison, Wisconsin.
- **Maria (Jime) Gonzalez-Ramirez ('09)** majored in Mathematics and Economics and is now a graduate student in Economics at Iowa State University.
- **Ryan Kruse ('09)** majored in Mathematics and Engineering and is now an engineer at John Deere, in Dubuque, Iowa.
- **Erik Insko ('06)** majored in Mathematics and plans to graduate with a PhD in mathematics from the University of Iowa this year.
- **Drew Sodey ('06)** majored in Mathematics Secondary Education and teaches at Waconia High School in Clearwater, Minnesota.

Who Can Tell You More?

Please contact our friendly math faculty for more information.

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