

Department of Mathematics FAQs

1. What are some good minors that go with math?

Anything! College is a time when you should investigate things that interest you and a minor is a great way to do that. Our math majors have minors from all across the university. That said, for the jobs our majors usually consider, minors in Actuarial Science, Computer Science, Economics, Physics, or Statistics are quite good. In the case of Actuarial Science and Statistics, many required courses overlap with major courses, so these minors are pretty easy to attain.

2. What can I do with a math major?

It is very rare to go to a company and see the title “Mathematician” after someone’s name on the directory. That said, math majors enjoy some of the best job placement rates upon graduation. Certainly, we have math majors that go on to teach high school and to graduate school, but past that, our majors are recruited and hired by a wide variety of companies and usually serve in the role of analyst or forecaster. Companies hire mathematicians because they are analytic thinkers, problem-solvers, and can read and understand complex ideas. Some of our recent graduates are working for medical supply companies, construction companies, and financial institutions.

3. I’m undecided but leaning towards STEM. Do I have to start a math major right away?

If you are in a STEM major, you’ll need to take calculus (at least Calculus I and often Calculus II and Calculus III) and in some majors, differential equations as well. All four of these courses are part of the math major and most of our majors don’t complete Calculus I-III and differential equations until somewhere in their sophomore year. There are a few other math courses you can take that also serve as electives or allied requirements for STEM majors. So it is straightforward and expeditious to transition to a math major from another STEM major. It’s important as well that you take your time and learn about majors rather than committing immediately.

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