



**COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

**Department of Mathematics**

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September 1, 2018

Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

We welcome your interest in graduate study in the Department of Mathematics at The University of Iowa.

For a fuller description of our graduate program, the areas of study, and the admission requirements, please visit our website at <https://www.math.uiowa.edu/graduate-program>. To start the application process please visit our website at <https://www.math.uiowa.edu/graduate-program/admissions/application-process>. You will also find links to information about Graduate College requirements, application deadlines, etc.

These are still very exciting times for our graduate program. In 2008, we received the American Mathematical Society Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in a Mathematics Department. In 2006, we received a prestigious NSF VIGRE grant. We also received the national Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring and were named by the American Mathematics Society as one of two "Programs that Make a Difference." We continue to have close to 100% placements of our graduates. The application process is important for you and for us. In this letter, we describe some details and guidelines.

Admission and financial decisions are based on Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores, courses taken, grade point average (GPA), academic goals, and letters of recommendation. We usually expect GRE scores of at least 150 verbal and 151 quantitative for admission to the Master's program, and at least 153 verbal and 155 quantitative for admission to the Ph.D. programs. Please be sure to have your GRE scores sent to The University of Iowa by the testing agency. We usually expect an undergraduate grade point average of at least 3.20 for admission to the Master's degree program and 3.40 for admission to the Ph.D. program. We are aware, however, that there are differences in grading systems and severity from school to school. We consider all the evidence available and for this reason, it is to your advantage to submit as complete an application as possible.

Most Teaching Assistantships are awarded for the academic year, beginning with the Fall session (late August). Thus, students requesting financial support should apply for admission for the Fall session. We give preference to those applying to the Ph.D. program. For the academic year 2018-2019, teaching assistantships with a stipend starting at \$19,236 were available. All students on support are charged tuition and fees at the resident rate, currently \$9,785/academic year. Additional summer support is usually available. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) provides a \$9,785/academic year tuition scholarship for supported students for 2018-2019 (so the net fees are \$1043.50 less 50% covered by CLAS = \$521.75). The department has GAANN fellowships and has successfully nominated a number of students for Graduate College Iowa Recruitment Fellowships. These awards provide enhanced support and reduced duties.

We begin consideration for admission and financial support on January 15 for the following Fall session. Offers of admission and teaching assistantships are usually sent out February through May.

The TOEFL scores are used to predict the ability of a student to function effectively in courses taught in English and to work effectively in English as a teaching assistant (TA). In order to be considered for admission, we generally expect a TOEFL score of at least 575 (or 232 computer based or 90 internet based) for M.S. applicants and 600 (250, 100) for Ph.D. applicants. The University of Iowa will accept the IELTS as an alternative to TOEFL. The cut-off score for admission is 7.0 with no subscore lower than 6.0.

Teaching Assistants (in all departments) for whom English is not the official primary language are required by the University to take a Teaching Assistant Certification Exam, given before the beginning of classes and several times during the year. Completion of this examination is a prerequisite for any financial support from the department, including teaching and even paper grading. A grade of B or above on this exam is expected for renewal of assistantships beyond the first year.

In order to improve your communication skills, you may take various English language courses along with your mathematics courses during the first few semesters. Such courses are required of TAs who have not yet passed the ESPA and ELPT exams.

The University of Iowa and Iowa City are friendly, intellectually exciting and culturally diverse communities. The Mathematics Department welcomes all applications, particularly those of women and minorities. For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.math.uiowa.edu/graduate-program> or contact the secretary for the graduate program at [lucinda-van-ark@uiowa.edu](mailto:lucinda-van-ark@uiowa.edu) or at 319-335-0708 (or Admissions at 319-335-3847). You are also welcome to contact me at my e-mail address below. Finally, we welcome prospective students who would like to visit campus to see what we have to offer. We appreciate your interest in the department and look forward to your application.

Sincerely,

Laurent O. Jay  
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