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Course: Math 355

As a student pursuing the career as a mathematics instructor, I would suggest that every mathematics major with the math education option should participate in the Undergraduate

Teaching Assistant program; I would even go out on a limb and say that it should be a mandatory requirement of the math education option. Although the UTA position supplies only a small

taste of teaching, it is an experience that will test your desire to become a teacher; the UTA position includes grading homework, holding office hours, and administering/teaching one or two classes.

Grading homework can be tedious at times; yet in retrospect, it was the easiest and most soothing task that I have ever been paid to do. In this sense, grading homework would fall into

my relaxing, yet skillful equivalence class with sewing, playing music, and swimming. At the same time, this task is beneficial since it reinforces the mathematical knowledge that is presented in the course.

Twice I was asked to administer a class; the first time it was to implement and oversee a test, and the other time I was asked to teach a lesson. I was slightly nervous to teach a class, but my professor gave me tons of encouragement and worked with me so that I felt confident giving the lecture. This was by far the biggest step to becoming a teacher that I have taken. Not only did this give me real classroom experience, but the success of the lesson boosted my confidence and desire to teach mathematics.

Overall I believe that this was a great experience that everyone should try.