

Christian Cooper

UTA Program Reflection

The UTA Program as part of the Mathematics Department can be described as a unique experience which allows a student to engage with the realities of Mathematics education as a whole. During my stay as a UTA, for what is now one year, I have felt myself engage with mathematics in a different way than previously. At first, I began to notice the different ways that educators are encouraged to teach students, and have grown more perceptive of when such tactics are used in the classroom. However, with even further participation, I have grown to recognize more-so the issues that teachers deal with, and in a sense am more sympathetic and empathetic when considering my interactions with a teacher.

With regards to my academic career, the UTA program allowed me to further continue tutoring and address some of my weak-areas, hopefully improving my ability to teach when the time comes. As the year progressed, I found myself communicating more clearly, and able to recognize when a student is (including myself!) 'shaky' on a subject. Moreover, I developed the ability to rephrase ideas in a multitude of ways. Mathematics is a hard subject, and one that requires a lot of time and dedication. Seeing in retrospect how the difficulties I once faced now seem significantly easier with time has made my confidence skyrocket, as I understand that such frustration is really just the learning process. I would highly recommend the UTA program for people who are interested in tutoring / education but don't seem to understand if it's a good fit for them, as it will truly shine some light on the reality of the process.