

Andrew Logan

UTA Program Reflection

Fall 2020

This semester, I was a teaching assistant for Chris Jewell's three sections of vector calculus. I was fortunate to work with a mentor who supported me as a mathematics student, teaching assistant, and also gave me freedom in choosing ways in which to help his classes.

My experience as a UTA has increased my engagement with mathematics immensely. Within the scope of the class I was TA-ing for, vector calculus, I find myself researching why certain theorems or concepts are true, which also assists me in the proof-based classes that I am taking. I also was motivated to research some advanced mathematical topics after hearing presentations from guest researchers and fellow UTA's.

The UTA program has assisted me in my academic career by connecting me with resources (advisors and faculty) and introducing me to higher mathematical ideas. It has only been eight months since I declared being a math major, but the UTA program has cemented for me that this was the right decision.

Additionally, the UTA program has drastically improved my communication skills. Before, when one of my friends would ask me for math help, I could usually help them but I would always stumble through my explanations. Now, after holding dozens of office hours and leading a lecture with live questions, I feel extremely confident in my mathematical knowledge in addition to my ability to convey concepts in a clear, concise manner. Through tutoring and teaching during the semester, I have gained confidence in my calculus skills as well as my skills in any mathematics course. Teaching throughout the semester has given me the ability to think like an educator, which helps me in determining important concepts for the courses that I am taking.

I sincerely recommend this program for any math or statistics major. The opportunity to work with students and a mentor, improve your communication of abstract concepts, and

learn other interpersonal skills is pertinent no matter the career path you choose.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me through my UTA journey. Dr. Jones and Dr. Durón, thank you so much for inspiring me to give my best and support me academically during our weekly seminars. Professor Jewell, thank you for inspiring me to be a math major and for continuing to inspire me as a teaching assistant.