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UTA Program Reflection  
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Earlier this semester, I was given the amazing opportunity to work as an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for MATH 129 under the guidance of Dr. Nicole Fider. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone involved with the program for making it an amazing learning experience despite the challenging circumstances! Despite not being able to meet in-person, I feel that I was a part of a very loving and supportive community of fellow peers who loved teaching math as much as I do.

Another one of my objectives behind applying for the UTA program was to venture outside my comfort zone and work on my lacking communication skills. Although I wouldn't call myself socially inept, I find it very difficult to get my point across. Therefore, I felt that the UTA program was one of the best opportunities for me to learn how to navigate the social labyrinth and to help people simultaneously, a best of both worlds. Without a doubt, I feel much more confident in presenting myself in front of others. Most importantly, I've learnt how to communicate in technical terms. This is an invaluable skill that will go a long way in helping me become a better team player and overall contributor in the branch of STEM.

Something I never expected prior to the program was that I would be recording videos that walked through concepts and tricky problems in math. It was my mentor who inspired me to explore this unique path and learn this new form of communication. I remember taking 4 hrs to record a 10 minute long video when I first started out. I was able to work with Dr. Fider and iron out all my weaknesses and approach a task which would have been too daunting for me to even think of just a few months ago. I also had to engage with the material much more than simply studying it. After all, I was not responsible for my learning, but the understanding of others. The payoff also turned out to be worth the effort. Apart from helping my shyness in front of a camera, I was able to help out students who had a tough time learning from written solutions. Seeing a fellow student work through a problem and verbally hearing my thoughts while working through it helped them understand how to approach them and how to think through their solutions more effectively. Finally, I learnt how difficult it is to shoulder the responsibility of teaching someone

effectively. I had to remake videos several times since I wasn't sure whether I was being clear enough for people who had never studied a particular concept before. Therefore, I feel like I learnt a lot of invaluable leadership skills along with effective communication.

In conclusion, would I recommend the UTA program to my fellow undergrads? Absolutely! Other than being an amazing learning experience, it's a great way to give back to the amazing math department at the University of Arizona. By becoming a UTA, I've had a significant boost in my confidence and self-worth. Most importantly, by becoming a UTA, I feel that you're paving the way for fellow students to get inspired by you and follow in your footsteps. That in my opinion, is the reason that inspires me the most!