

UTA Reflection: MATH 413 Spring 2020

Marcel Hudiani

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First of all, I would like to thank Dr. Rachel Neville and Dr. Tiffany Jones for the opportunity that they gave me to be a UTA, especially since I have done this program in the past. I also would like to thank Dr. Jingchen Niu for mentoring me and for being generous with his time and patience. I was a UTA for MATH 313, which is the non-proofs based Linear Algebra course, in the past. This time, I was a UTA for the proof-intensive Linear Algebra course.

In terms of specific experience relating to being a UTA for MATH 413, I learned that sometimes lectures can be tough, especially in a proof-intensive class. The students (juniors, seniors, and some non-mathematics graduate students) could ask plenty of questions. In addition, controlling the class could be difficult in a larger class size. This was a new experience that I did not gain in my first go round. In this case, I learned that I had to be more confident when communicating ideas and being firm about the correctness of a proof or a solution.

I think the UTA program has helped many students in terms of providing experiences for students to practice teaching and to work for a professor or an instructor, thereby improving students' resumes. It provides students the opportunity to know what it is like to be a teacher. I definitely recommend becoming a UTA at least once if you really like mathematics.