# Mathematics

## What can I do with this major?

### Areas

**Mathematics/Computational Science**
- Research:
  - Theoretical
  - Applied
- Mathematical specialties:
  - Modeling and simulation
  - Numerical methods and analysis
  - Statistics and probability
  - Engineering analysis
  - Differential equations
  - Operations research
  - Discrete mathematics
- Functional areas:
  - Accounting and finance
  - Computer programming
  - Computer systems analysis
  - Operations
  - Sales and marketing
  - Management
  - Actuarial science
  - Engineering
  - Analysis and control of processes
  - Optimization and scheduling of resources

### Employers

- State government agencies
- Federal government:
  - National Security Agency
  - Department of Defense
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
  - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - Social Security Administration
  - Department of Homeland Security
  - Department of Energy
  - Military
  - Government laboratories
- Scientific research and development services
- Consulting firms
- Computer services companies and software publishers
- Electronics and computer manufacturers
- Engineering firms
- Insurance companies
- Financial services firms
- Chemical and pharmaceutical companies
- Aerospace and transportation equipment manufacturers
- Airlines and airports
- Communications firms
- Energy companies and petroleum producers
- International government agencies
- Nonprofit organizations (e.g., American Institute of Mathematics, Mathematical Association of America, American Mathematical Society)

### Strategies

To work in applied mathematics, consider earning a double major in a scientific or technical area. Many students with a bachelor’s or master’s degree in math work in related fields (e.g. computer science, engineering, science, or economics).

Some entry-level jobs in industry and government may be available at the bachelor's level.

Develop substantial knowledge of computer programming and software administration. Seek experience with relevant software packages.

Learn to work well with a team of people from diverse backgrounds and differing technical specialties.

Gain experience in an area of interest through internships or research programs (e.g. those sponsored by National Science Foundation).

Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations to gain graduate school admittance.

Plan to earn a doctoral degree to work as a mathematician.

Research government hiring processes and internship opportunities if the public sector appeals to you.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AREAS</strong></th>
<th><strong>EMPLOYERS</strong></th>
<th><strong>STRATEGIES</strong></th>
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</table>

### EDUCATION
- Teaching
- Research
- Higher education administration

- Public and private K-12 schools
- Universities and colleges

- Develop excellent communication skills, verbal and written.
- Gain experience working with age group of interest through volunteering and tutoring.
- Acquire appropriate state teacher certification for K-12 teaching opportunities. Math majors may be eligible for alternative certification programs in certain public school systems.
- Private schools may hire candidates with degrees in mathematics who don't hold certification.
- Earn a doctoral degree in math to teach at four-year institutions. A master’s degree may be sufficient for two-year colleges.
- Maintain a high grade point average and secure strong faculty recommendations to prepare for graduate school. Assist a professor with research.
- Seek appropriate graduate degree to enter higher education administration. Gain experience on campus in student leadership roles such as Resident Assistant or Orientation Leader.

### COMPUTERS
- Programming
- Systems development
- Systems analysis
- Software development
- Network administration
- Web administration
- Technical support
- Training

- Examples of areas of businesses:
  - Computer companies:
    - Computer services companies
    - Software publishers
    - Internet related companies
    - Consulting firms
  - Businesses that hire computer competence:
    - Financial & insurance companies
    - Manufacturers
    - Telecommunications companies
    - Retailers
    - Healthcare organizations
    - Hotels and restaurants
    - Entertainment companies
    - Environmental management firms

- Develop substantial knowledge of computer programming and software administration.
- Take classes to earn relevant certifications.
- Gain related experience through internships, part-time positions, or summer jobs.
- Work with campus information technology department or volunteer to develop/maintain the website for a student organization.
- Learn effective listening and verbal communication skills and how to work well with end users.
- Stay attuned with developments in computer technology.
- Consider earning an advanced degree in computer science or management information systems, especially if interested in management.
### COMPUTERS CONTINUED

- **Exhibit patience and creativity for problem-solving computer or software issues.**
- **To advance into management, learn to effectively manage multiple projects, meet deadlines, and communicate effectively.**
- **Obtain experience with public speaking/teaching and learn to develop curriculums for training focused positions.**

### INSURANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas</th>
<th>Education institutions</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actuarial science</td>
<td>Insurance carriers</td>
<td>Insurance agents and brokers</td>
<td>Take additional courses in statistics and finance. Complete an internship with an insurance agency to gain relevant experience. Actuarial science is a good career path for those who want to extensively use math on the job. Areas such as claims, underwriting, and risk management are less math-intensive. Talk to professionals in the industry to learn more about various positions. Develop strong communication skills, as many positions require interaction with others and the ability to explain information clearly and concisely. Learn how to use statistical analysis software and various computer programming languages. Plan to take a series of actuarial exams to gain licensure from either the Society of Actuaries or the Casualty Actuarial Society. The type of insurance you deal with will determine which path to pursue. Most actuaries take these exams while working full-time, and the process takes several years. More than half of actuaries work for insurance carriers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Risk management/assessment</td>
<td>Professional, scientific, and technical consulting firms</td>
<td>Government agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss management/control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Underwriting</td>
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### Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Banking and Finance</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate and consumer credit analysis</td>
<td>Commercial banks</td>
<td>Double major or minor in business to build a solid background in marketing, finance, and accounting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial lending</td>
<td>Credit unions</td>
<td>Gain experience through part-time, summer, or internship positions in a financial services firm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust management</td>
<td>Savings and loan associations</td>
<td>Develop strong interpersonal and communication skills in order to work well with a diverse clientele.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital services and mergers and acquisitions</td>
<td>Savings banks</td>
<td>Serve as the financial officer or treasurer of a student organization.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mortgage loans</td>
<td>Mortgage banks</td>
<td>Plan to earn a graduate business degree to enter investment banking.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Originations and packaging</td>
<td>Captive finance companies</td>
<td>Be geographically flexible when job searching.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch management</td>
<td>Regulatory agencies:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>Federal Reserve</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash management</td>
<td>Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit scoring and risk management</td>
<td>Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Private banking</td>
<td>Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial analysis</td>
<td>Brokerage firms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment banking</td>
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### Other Business Areas

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buying</th>
<th>Retailers</th>
<th>Obtain experience through part-time, summer, or internship positions.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchasing</td>
<td>Wholesalers</td>
<td>Seek leadership positions in campus organizations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales:</td>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>Become highly motivated and well-organized.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industrial sales</td>
<td>Universities and schools</td>
<td>Develop strong analytical skills and the ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of people.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer product sales</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government</td>
<td>Take additional courses in interpersonal communication and public speaking.</td>
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<td>Financial services sales</td>
<td>For-profit and nonprofit organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services sales</td>
<td>Product and service organizations</td>
<td>To prepare for a buying position, work in a retail store to learn about the industry.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising sales</td>
<td>Manufacturers</td>
<td>Research certification options within the purchasing field.</td>
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<tr>
<td>E-commerce</td>
<td>Financial companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer service</td>
<td>Print and electronic media outlets</td>
<td>For sales:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales management: district, regional, and corporate</td>
<td>Software and technology companies</td>
<td>Work for the campus newspaper, directory, or radio station selling advertisements.</td>
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<td>Internet companies</td>
<td>Learn to work well under pressure and to be comfortable in a competitive environment.</td>
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<td>Prepare to work independently and to be self-motivated.</td>
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<td>Plan to work irregular and/or long hours.</td>
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General Information

- Math can be found in almost every sector of the world of work. Students majoring in math should consider if they want to use math skills directly or indirectly in the work place. This may determine the types of experiences and further education necessary to prepare for area of interest.
- Math backgrounds may work in a variety of settings and jobs such as analyst, researcher/research assistant, technical consultant, computer scientist, or systems engineer.
- Math majors develop many transferable skills including critical thinking, problem diagnosis and solving, computer skills, and quantitative skills. Other important skills to develop include good reasoning, persistence, and communication, both verbal and written.
- Seek relevant experiences through internships, part-time, and summer positions.
- Supplement curriculum with courses in business, economics, computers, or statistics for increased opportunities.
- Consider earning a graduate degree in a related area such as statistics, computer science, science, business, engineering, or other integrated degrees. Some examples of specialties that utilize a background in math combined with study in another field include bioinformatics, computer animation and digital imaging, climatology, or financial mathematics.
- Join relevant organizations and seek leadership roles. Learn to work well in a team environment.
- Conduct informational interviews with professionals in areas of interest to enhance knowledge and make contacts.
- Stay informed of new developments and current trends in the field.