

## Reflection Paper on Your Math Major

Due February 20, 2006

In this paper, you are to reflect on your mathematical experiences at Wheaton. Included below are the Wheaton Mission Statement and the Math/CS Department Mission Statement, including a few paragraphs from the Departmental Self-Study Report that we sent to the External Review Team last fall.

Discuss these Statements and whether you feel they accurately reflect your experience as a Math Major at Wheaton. Be specific; talk about your courses, or other experiences in the Department, and how they addressed the expressed ideals for the Math program. Which courses helped? Which topics? Which assignments? What was missing? Be very honest and open about this in discussing the Math program. After you graduate in June, other faculty in the department will read your papers, and we will use your papers to help us evaluate the structure of the Math Major.

Here are some guidelines as you work on this paper.

- Your paper should be well organized, with a clear introduction and conclusion, and should use correct grammar and spelling.
- There are no “right” or “wrong” answers for this assignment. Your paper will be graded on the thoughtfulness of your comments and the quality and clarity of your writing.
- The paper should be 3–5 pages long, double-spaced in 12 pt. font.
- Please submit three copies of your paper, one of which will be graded and returned to you.

### Wheaton College Mission Statement

*Wheaton College provides an undergraduate liberal arts education for intellectually curious students in a collaborative, academically vibrant residential community that values a diverse world.*

### Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Mission Statement

*The mission of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science is to meet all students at their level and then to encourage, engage, and inspire them to greater familiarity and facility with quantitative and inductive ways of reasoning. In particular, the Department is committed to graduating majors who think like mathematicians, statisticians, and computer scientists; to supporting the Quantitative Analysis, Connections, and Infusion requirements of the Wheaton curriculum; to supporting faculty in their research; and, to maintaining our role as campus leaders.*

We are an energetic department committed to helping our students appreciate the beauty and power of mathematics and to prepare them for a world of work that depends on logical, detailed thinking and the wise use of computational tools. Because we offer small classes, our students receive individual attention and get to know us personally. We encourage collaboration among students as well as between students and faculty in an attempt to build a community in all of our classes and with all of our majors. We have worked to create an inviting, supportive atmosphere while maintaining the rigor of our programs. Our students are actively involved in projects and presentations that go beyond the traditional course work.

As programs within a liberal arts environment, we feel it is important that students can read and comprehend mathematics and computer science and can communicate technical material both orally and in writing. Our programs in Mathematics give students the technological skills and knowledge that are necessary to understand the central role of mathematics in the modern world.