

Mathematics

In this complex society, people trained in mathematics are playing an increasingly critical role. At St. Ambrose, Math majors develop the practical and theoretical knowledge of mathematics at an advanced level and the logical skills necessary for creative problem-solving and critical analysis. Not only do our Math students become thoroughly familiar with the use of various technologies necessary for problem-solving, analysis and research, they develop the ability to write and speak effectively in their discipline.

Contact us

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 Visit the Mathematics Department
 Web site at www.sau.edu/math
 For general information about
 St. Ambrose or how to apply:
 Admissions Office
 563/333-6300 or 800/383-2627
 email: admit@sau.edu
www.sau.edu

Degrees offered and required credit hours

The Department of Mathematics at St. Ambrose offers programs of study leading to a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education, and the courses required for a Secondary Teacher's Certificate with a Minor in Mathematics. A minor in Mathematics also is offered.

Students seeking a bachelor of science degree in Mathematics take 35 credit hours in mathematics and 6 credit hours in computer science, including a programming language. Requirements for a Secondary Teacher's Certificate with a Minor in Mathematics are 27 credit hours in mathematics, 3 credit hours in mathematics electives and 6 credit hours in computer science. Requirements for a minor in Mathematics are 20 credit hours in mathematics.

For education courses required for a teaching major, please contact the Education Department, or see our course catalog at www.sau.edu/catalog for a full description of required and elective courses.

Program highlights and courses

At St. Ambrose, professors teach the math courses, not graduate assistants, and classes are small enough that students have direct access to their professors and get the personal attention they need.

The professors remain active researchers and work to prepare students for employment or graduate work. Professors in the Mathematics Department also remain active in their discipline, encouraging students to gain experience in conducting research. Students use graphing calculators to visualize functions, statistical software to conduct analyses, and type-setting applications to publish their work.

Mathematics majors complete a series of seminar courses in which they work closely with professor in preparation for employment or graduate work. Math Education majors complete a sequence of field experiences culminating in student teaching, during which the student teaches one full semester under the supervision of a cooperating teacher and university supervisor.

St. Ambrose has a respected Education program overall and a strong mathematics component. In addition to training new teachers, St. Ambrose provides continuing education opportunities for current math teachers to improve their content knowledge and teaching skills.

What can you do with a Mathematics degree?

Employers and graduate schools value the knowledge, analytical skills and quantitative thinking students develop in the Mathematics programs. Mathematics majors are employed in virtually all fields and in jobs such as research scientists, actuaries and analysts. Some recent Math graduates have been employed in these fields, while other graduates have successfully completed graduate degrees in Mathematics, Education and Statistics at major universities.

The shortage of mathematics teachers is projected to increase in the near future. In fact, the State of Iowa currently is offering financial incentives to encourage students to

enter the teaching field in mathematics and science. Please contact St. Ambrose's Financial Aid Office for more information.

About the faculty

Thomas Anderson PhD, Professor and Department Chair

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Teaches Math for Liberal Arts, Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, and Calculus I. Prof. Anderson earned his doctorate from the University of Iowa. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 1986.

Brad Thiessen, Instructor and Assessment Coordinator

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Expertise areas are analysis of student achievement data and test development and evaluation of student achievement.

Mr. Thiessen is currently a doctoral candidate in educational measurement and statistics at the University of Iowa. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 2003.

Victor Vega, Assistant Professor

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Prof. Vega's research area is Operator Algebras, in particular Hilbert C^* -modules and C^* -Correspondences associated to Graph Algebras. He is completing his doctorate in mathematics at the University of Iowa. He has taught at St. Ambrose since 2003.