What can you do with a degree in Mathematics?

Anything! A mathematics degree can lead you to wide-ranging fields from research and education, Internet start-ups and biotech companies and even to baseball analytics for a major league team.

The renowned polymath Benjamin Franklin once said, “No employment can be managed without arithmetic, no mechanical invention without geometry.” Today Franklin’s 18th-century statement is truer than ever.

If you have a love and talent for the rigors and curiosities of mathematics, then the world is yours.

According to several national surveys:
- Math majors routinely receive the highest scores on graduate entrance exams, such as the LSAT and GMAT.
- Math majors earn high starting salaries.
- Math majors report high levels of job satisfaction.

Graduates are career-ready

Mathematics students gain the knowledge and skills to excel in their chosen careers from day one to ensure their future success. Our students learn an array of mathematical theories, concepts and areas from nationally recognized faculty, who specialize in topics ranging from topology and applied mathematics to mathematical biology and actuarial sciences. Months before graduation, Morgan Pearson (’18, pictured right) landed a job as an international assistant with the Texas Rangers where he will be responsible for player recruitment and projects related to statistics and baseball analytics.

Recent graduates work as:
- Insurance managers
- Actuaries
- Investment entrepreneurs
- Systems engineers and analysts
- System and application software managers for the US Air Force
- Mathematics teachers
- Financial mathematicians
- Research biomathematicians at OHSU
- Computer scientists
- Electrical engineers
- Tax accountants
- Robotics experts

This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact the College of Science at 541-737-4811 or science@oregonstate.edu.
The Department of Mathematics is a vibrant center for undergraduate and graduate level mathematics. It is home to many award-winning and outstanding researchers and teachers. Our faculty frequently engage in interdisciplinary research and work towards solutions for today’s pressing applied and theoretical problems, such as the transport of contaminants in the Earth’s subsurface and the modeling and analysis of biological systems.

Endless opportunities
Mathematics students are well prepared for graduate school and careers in industry or research where mathematics plays a pivotal role. Grounding in pure or abstract mathematics gives students the analytical and problem-solving skills that industry demands. Applied mathematics and mathematical models are used extensively worldwide to address problems in engineering, business, computer science as well as the natural and social sciences.

Mathematics majors interested in careers in financial and actuarial industries can also pursue a minor in Actuarial Science. Many of our students continue their studies at top graduate schools in mathematics and other STEM fields.

Student Activities
- The OSU Math Club sponsors lectures, discussions and mathematics-centered activities for students.
- The Association for Women in Mathematics is a student organization that encourages women to pursue active careers in the mathematical sciences.
- The Actuarial Science Club promotes the actuarial profession, the actuarial preparatory track, internships and job opportunities.
- The Oregon State University chapter of the Society for Industrial & Applied Mathematics welcomes anyone interested in applied mathematics and its applications to industry.

The Mathematics Department offers the opportunity for majors to compete in national contests, such as the Putnam, Virginia Tech and COMAP competitions. Students can participate in study abroad programs as well as in our Research Experiences for Undergraduates summer program. Look for more information on the department website.

The Mathematics and Statistics Learning Center is a free resource providing help for lower-division mathematics courses. It also serves as a friendly gathering place for mathematics majors.

Student success
Professional advisors are available to help students make academic decisions that best support their personal goals and abilities. Students can consult them for help selecting courses and for guidance about navigating university policies. For current course requirements, refer to the OSU General Catalog online.

For information about careers and graduate programs, contact the department.

Where can mathematics take you?

Focusing your degree
- Applied and Computational Mathematics is tailored for those interested in applied mathematics, scientific computation or engineering, preparing students for jobs in industry or government labs.
- Mathematical Biology Option will teach students how to use mathematics to solve problems in the biological sciences. This specialization will equip students for jobs in the biotech and pharmaceutical industries as well as research institutes.
- Statistics Option prepares students for careers in data analysis, economics, financial engineering or environmental studies as well as for graduate study in statistics.
- Secondary Teaching Emphasis provides the necessary mathematics background and prerequisites for subsequent certification to teach mathematics and science at the secondary level.

Sample Curriculum

YEAR ONE
- Calculus
- Physics
- General course: The Politics of Developing Nations
- Approved physical or biological science courses

YEAR TWO
- Calculus
- Linear Algebra
- General course: Race, Space & Difference
- Study abroad

YEAR THREE
- Advanced Calculus
- Linear Algebra
- Abstract Algebra
- Discrete Math
- Mathematical Modeling, Fundamental Concepts of Topology or Non-Euclidean Geometry
- General course: Appearance, Power & Society
- Summer research

YEAR FOUR
- Students can plan their senior year to give breadth and depth in 6 areas of mathematics:
  - Algebra and Number Theory
  - Analysis, Applied Mathematics, Geometry and Topology
  - Numerical Analysis, Probability

Rachel Legard ’19 graduated to work as an analyst at Deloitte.
Jesse Rodriguez ’18 is doing a Ph.D. in plasma physics at Stanford.

Where can mathematics take you?