Strengths of the K-State Undergraduate Math Program

Kansas State has been a very selective recommended undergraduate math program for over 25 years in Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges which is based on polls of students at major colleges and universities around the country. The Princeton Review has recognized Kansas State University as one of the Best Colleges and Best Value Colleges in the nation.

Our award-winning math faculty obtained their Ph.D.'s from some of the best universities in the world, and they conduct cutting-edge mathematical research in many different areas. Just about every branch of pure and applied math is represented amongst their areas of research.

Twenty eight K-State math majors have won Goldwater Scholarships, and K-State ranks first among the nation's 500 state-supported universities for the most Goldwater scholars. The Goldwater Scholarship Program strives to encourage promising students who plan research careers in one of the STEM disciplines.

K-State placed 1st among public universities and 12th overall in the 1996 Putnam Mathematical Competition. Each year nearly 4,000 contestants from over 500 colleges and universities participate in the Putnam Competition which is the most prestigious mathematics contest for undergraduates in the United States and Canada.

K-State placed 8th in the world in 2005 in the Mathematical Contest in Modeling which is a world-wide competition where teams of undergraduates create mathematical models to solve real world problems.

Our math majors have won a Rhodes Scholarship, a Fulbright Scholarship, a Clare Boothe Luce Scholarship, an Abraham Anson Memorial Scholarship, and a number of SMART Scholarships, McNair Scholarships, Department of Defense Research Fellowships, and National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships. One of our majors recently received an Alice T. Schafer Prize Honorable Mention.

Our math majors have been Participants in: Research Programs with the Institute for Advanced Study, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, NSA, NOAA, and many national labs and universities across the United States and Europe; Study Abroad at universities in France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Sweden, and many other countries; and Internships with Allstate, Excel Telecommunications, Garmin, Hartford, IBM, Google, Intel, Jacobs Sverdrup, Microsoft, Motorola, Mutual of Omaha, NSA, Raytheon, Travelers, and many other companies.

The K-State I-Center fosters groups of undergraduate and graduate students, post-docs, and faculty jointly working on cutting-edge problems in applied mathematics, pure mathematics, and interdisciplinary areas. Such experience is pivotal for undergraduates to learn how to do creative research. The Director of the I-Center is Marianne Korten. The undergraduate math research opportunities at K-State are summarized on our Undergraduate Research in Math Poster.


Recent K-State math graduates have gone to graduate school at: Boston University, Brandeis University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Johns Hopkins University, Kansas State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New York University, Ohio State University, Rutgers, Southern Illinois University, Texas A&M University, University of California at San Diego, University of Colorado, University of Florida, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of Oregon, University of South Florida, University of Texas, University of Washington.


The Undergraduate Mathematics Seminar introduces students to our Department of Mathematics, our programs, various applications of mathematics, and the many career opportunities in mathematics. The Seminar features presentations by Alumni, faculty, and business and government representatives. We have great mentoring in our Math Club and our advanced study group which provides help with upper level courses thus creating a strong and supportive peer group.

http://www.math.ksu.edu/ugrad/strngths.pdf