

Bowdoin College
Interview / Survey of Current Senior Mathematics Majors and Minors

Name: _____
Major(s): _____ Minor: _____
Studied Away? _____
Plans After Graduation: _____

Question 1.

What led you to major (*or minor*) in mathematics? Did you always intend to major (*or minor*) in mathematics? What people or courses or events were influential in your decision to major (*or minor*) in mathematics? Are you now happy with your decision to major (*or minor*) in mathematics?

Question 2.

What have you learned about the world by majoring (*or minoring*) in mathematics? What have you learned about yourself by majoring (*or minoring*) in mathematics? Tell me about a situation in your life ... a story ... that illustrates what you learned by majoring (*or minoring*) in mathematics.

Question 3.

In what ways has your perception of mathematics changed since entering Bowdoin?

Question 4.

If you were writing a short book for young people called, "The Importance of Learning About Mathematics," what would you write about? On what themes would you focus?

Question 5.

As you think about your next step in life (life, family, graduate school, job, whatever) how do you think you will use the knowledge and skills that you learned by studying mathematics?

Question 6. (only for students who studied away)

How did your study away experiences fit with or support your major (*or minor*) in mathematics?

Question 7.

What was your favorite math course? Why was it your favorite?

Question 8.

What math course had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Question 9.

What was your most challenging math course? Why?

Question 10.

What mathematics courses have you found to be the most useful to you in courses in other departments?

Question 11.

What courses do you think should be added to the mathematics curriculum?

Question 12.

Are there any mathematics courses currently offered that you think should be dropped or radically changed?

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Please respond to each item below by circling the number along the continuum that best corresponds to your opinion. Skip any items that may not apply to you.

	OUTSTANDING	-----			POOR
1. Quality of your interactions with mathematics faculty	5	4	3	2	1
2. Quality of the mathematics courses you took	5	4	3	2	1
3. Degree of intellectual challenge in mathematics courses you took	5	4	3	2	1
4. Variety of course offerings in mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
5. Availability of the courses you wanted to take in mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
6. Sense of community among majors/minors within the mathematics department	5	4	3	2	1
7. Opportunities to interact outside of class with mathematics faculty	5	4	3	2	1
8. Opportunities to interact outside of class with other mathematics majors/minors	5	4	3	2	1
9. Quality of advising you received about mathematics course selection	5	4	3	2	1
10. Quality of information you received about the math major or minor requirements	5	4	3	2	1
11. Quality of information you received about grad school opportunities in mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
12. Quality of information you received about career opportunities using mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
13. Quality of the mathematics independent study courses you took	5	4	3	2	1
14. Opportunities to integrate your "study away" experiences with your study of mathematics	5	4	3	2	1
15. Opportunities to study special topics within mathematics that interested you	5	4	3	2	1
16. Opportunities to integrate mathematics with your other major or minor	5	4	3	2	1

How confident are you in your current abilities to:

	Extremely Confident	-----			Not At All Confident
17. Ability to effectively communicate information in writing	5	4	3	2	1
18. Ability to effectively communicate and present information when speaking	5	4	3	2	1
19. Ability to think analytically and logically	5	4	3	2	1
20. Ability to use technology to assist in solving mathematical problems	5	4	3	2	1
21. Ability to understand applications of mathematics in the sciences (bio, chem, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1
22. Ability to understand applications of mathematics in the social sciences (econ, psych, etc.)	5	4	3	2	1
23. Overall, how satisfied were you with your mathematics major or minor? <input type="checkbox"/> extremely satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat satisfied <input type="checkbox"/> somewhat dissatisfied <input type="checkbox"/> extremely dissatisfied					

Could you briefly explain your response to the item above? In particular, in what important ways could your experience have been improved?