

# DRP Guidelines 2023

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September 16, 2023

## 1 So, what is DRP?

DRP stands for Directed Reading Program. This is a program designed for undergraduates who are interested in learning advanced mathematics in a personalized 1 on 1 setting and are looking to engage with material that might not be ordinarily offered in the curriculum. Selected students are paired with graduate students who specialize in one of the students indicated area of interest. The student and mentor will agree on a project. It can be based on a reading through a book or a paper, but projects don't strictly have to be these things. At the end of the semester, all the students give presentations summarizing their work and share the knowledge they obtained during the program.

## 2 Expectations for DRP

### 2.1 Student Expectations

Students are expected to meet with their mentors once a week for an hour. The students should be spending the necessary time outside of their meetings to focus on DRP related work to ensure that their meetings with their mentors are as productive as possible. At the end of the semester, students are expected to give a 15-25 minute presentation on their work/project.

### 2.2 Mentor Expectations

Mentors are expected to meet with their students once a week for an hour and make sure that their students are making progress on their projects. Mentors should let the organizers know ASAP about any issue that arises such as a student missing meetings without notice or students not doing work. Mentors are also expected to attend the presentations at the end of the semester.

### 2.3 Being an effective mentor

- Be patient and understanding. Remember that the student is likely not as experienced as you are.

- Be encouraging. It is easy to get discouraged when learning new material.
- Be flexible. The student may not be interested in the project you initially proposed. Be open to changing the project to better suit the student's interests.
- Be a good listener. Make sure that you are listening to the student's concerns and questions.
- Be a good communicator. Make sure that you are communicating your expectations clearly to the student.
- Listening is more important than talking. Students might come with questions that you don't know the answer to. That's okay! You can learn together. There is nothing wrong with not knowing the answer to a question. This is about guiding the student to find the answer, even if it is not immediately apparent to you.

### **3 Talks**

At the end of the semester, students are expected to give a short 15-25 minute talk on their work done with their mentor over the course of the program. Any form of presentation is acceptable, should be cleared first with the organizers. This talk will be given in front of the other students in the program and the mentors. This is a great opportunity to practice giving talks in a low stakes environment. People are encouraged to ask questions during the talk and the will be open to the public.

### **4 How to apply**

Applications will be open at the beginning of the semester. Students will be asked to fill out a form indicating their mathematical interests. Students will be selected based on their interests and the availability of mentors. Preference is given to students who have not participated in the DRP before and students who are closer to graduation, since they have fewer opportunities to participate.