Project Summary: Math for the People

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# Introduction & About the Project

Math for the People is a new approach to teaching Quantitative Literacy to students outside of traditional STEM fields. By leading with social justice topics, Math for the People seeks to introduce students first to the problems we want to solve, and then introduce the mathematics we can use to understand them.

# Audience

The textbook is intended for a college freshman level course in quantitative literacy at a two or four-year postsecondary institution. This course would fulfill a terminal mathematics requirement for students whose degree programs do not require any further mathematics.

Because of the modular approach to the content, the material in the course could also be of use to mathematics faculty teaching other courses (for example, inserting a module which uses statistics concepts into an introductory statistics course) or faculty in the liberal arts who wish to introduce students to more quantitative methods for understanding social justice topics.

# About the Text/Content

The text will be structured in stand-alone modules, each related to a single social justice topic. Each module will begin with an overview of the topic, historical context, and a discussion of current questions and concerns related to the topic. This section may include particular case studies related to the topic, articles discussing the topic, and other resources. This section will followed by discussion prompts for faculty to use in helping students explore the issue.

The mathematical content will follow. Each topic will be paired with 2-4 mathematical topics which will help the reader to ask questions and build understanding about the social justice topic being discussed. These mathematical topic sections will stand alone, and may be repeated in multiple places throughout the text (for example, a section on exponential growth may be included in the module on climate change as well as the module on predatory lending).

Each module will end with homework exercises related to the social justice & mathematics topics, longer prompts intended to support more extensive explorations of the topics, and reflection questions to encourage students to consider what they’ve learned.

# Licensing

## The project will be authored under a [CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/). Because of the nature of the text, we are committed to openly sharing the information that we produce and avoiding commercial applications of the text. The CC BY-NC-SA license allows users to share and adapt the materials however they like, as long as the use is non-commercial, the original authorship is attributed, and the adapted materials are shared under the same license.

# Team

The team will be led by Dr. Mark Branson ([mbranson@stevenson.edu](mailto:mbranson@stevenson.edu)) and Dr. Whitney Dregne ([wgeorge@uwlax.edu](mailto:wgeorge@uwlax.edu)).

# Support (if applicable)

The project has received a Create grant from the Maryland Open Source Textbook (M.O.S.T.) Initiative.

# Timeline

* January 2019: Initial Project Meeting
* January 2020: Finalize Module Structure & Textbook Format
* February-March 2020: Build PreTeXt Module Outline
* March 2020: Submit MOST Grant
* June 2020: Build Statement of Principles/Mission; Build Style Guide
* July 2020: Begin Module Development
* August 2020: Initial Example Modules done & Ready for Review
* October 2020: Review & Revision of Example Modules; Complete “Wish List” of Module Topics with associated mathematical concepts
* October 2020 - January 2021: Recruitment of Phase I Module Authors; Module Development Continues
* March 2021: Authors submit Phase I Modules for Editing/Revision
* May 2021: Phase I Modules Edited/Revised
* August 2021: Phase I Textbook Launch; Solicitation of Phase II Module Authors/Topics
* December 2021: Submission of Phase II Modules for Editing/Revision
* March 2022: Phase II Modules Edited/Revised
* May 2022: Textbook Phase II Launch; Submission to AIM Approved Textbook List

# How to Get Involved

Please reach out to Mark Branson at [mbranson@stevenson.edu](mailto:mbranson@stevenson.edu) if you’re interested in participating in the project! We’ll be soliciting authors, editors, reviewers, and faculty to use the text, at different stages throughout the process. We’re happy to have the help!

# Measures of Success

We plan to measure our success by several criteria:

* Completion of at least 12 textbook modules by the Phase I Launch in August 2021
* Completion of at least 8 additional modules by the Phase II Launch in January 2022
* Review and approval by the American Institute of Mathematics (AIM) Approved Textbook List
* Adoption – our initial goal will be adoption by at least 30 institutions, at a wide range of institutions (public/private, urban/suburban/rural, 2-year/4-year, etc.).
* Development of a community to support the maintenance & further development of the textbook.