

# APPLICATION FOR MATH REVIEW COURSE GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR

Department of Applied Economics  
University of Minnesota

**Instructions:** Fill in this form and email it along with a current University of Minnesota (unofficial) transcript and a current CV to Jenna Mead ([apecdgs@umn.edu](mailto:apecdgs@umn.edu)). You should combine all your files into one pdf. In addition, ask one faculty member to submit a letter or e-mail reference that *discusses your abilities specific to the position* by June 16.\*

**Due date: June 16, 2017**

Name <b>Thomas Durfee</b>	Office # & Office Phone Number <b>Ruttan 252, Cell: 612-719-0365</b>
Email Address <b>durfe019@umn.edu</b>	Faculty Advisor <b>Metin Cakir</b>

If you are an international student, what is your English Language Proficiency (ELP) rating? \_\_\_\_

Name of Reference <b>Samuel Myers Jr</b>	Email Address of Reference <b>myers006@umn.edu</b>
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**\*Ask this faculty member to submit the letter or e-mail reference to Jenna Mead ([apecdgs@umn.edu](mailto:apecdgs@umn.edu)) by the June 16 due date.**

A. Please list previous and current teaching and research positions (including assistantships), dates and assistantship supervisors.

Research Assistant: Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice,  
Dates Active: Feb 2016 - Present,  
Supervisor: Samuel Myers Jr ([myers006@umn.edu](mailto:myers006@umn.edu))

Research Assistant: Center for the Study of Politics and Governance,  
Dates Active: Aug 2014 - Jan 2015,  
Supervisor: Larry Jacobs ([ljacobs@umn.edu](mailto:ljacobs@umn.edu))

Teaching Assistant: HHH 5021- Economics of for Policy Analysis and Planning 1,  
Dates Active: Aug 2015 - Dec 2015,  
Supervisor: Judy Temple ([jtemple@umn.edu](mailto:jtemple@umn.edu))

Teaching Assistant: HHH Crash Course in Data Visualization,  
Dates Active: Apr 2015,  
Supervisor: Audrey Dorelien ([dorelien@umn.edu](mailto:dorelien@umn.edu))

B. Please write a brief summary of your training and experience relevant to this position, including economics, mathematics and other relevant coursework, teacher and other relevant work experience.

Experience:

Teaching Assistant:

Economics: As TA for PA 5021,

I taught students the foundations of economic theory

I designed study guides, lesson plans, and test questions

I worked in conjunction with the professor to design a classroom setting that was conducive to learning economic material

Data Visualization: As a TA for the Data Visualization Crash Course,

I taught students tricks and shortcuts to simplify the data reporting process

I designed exercises for reinforcing data visualization best practices

I fielded questions from students during class on subject matter

Instructor:

Summer Camp: During my six seasons as a camp counselor,

I designed and implemented lesson plans for groups of 4 - 25

I worked in conjunction with other staff to ensure material met national standards

Coursework: I have taken the following core and field classes which may inform my instruction,

APEC 8001 - 8004: Consumer Behavior, Production, Game Theory, and Social Welfare

APEC 8203: Applied Welfare Economics and Public Policy

APEC 8211 - 8212: Econometric Analysis

APEC 8341: Applied Public Finance

ECON 8105: Macroeconomic Theory

PA 8302: Applied Policy Analysis

PA 8312: Analysis of Discrimination

PA 8390: Economic Demography

Overall Summary:

My experience as a graduate economics instructor and my years of experience as a counselor prepare me for the position of Math Review Graduate Instructor. I can prepare course materials and provide a positive learning environment for new students. I can identify the material that is most difficult for students, and present it in a way that is more easily approachable.

It is my ultimate professional goal to work as an academic economist. I have instructional experience that informs my teaching style, and I hope to bring my experience to this position.