MATHEMATICS - MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

MA/MS Program
Students may obtain an MA/MS degree as either an undergraduate student through the concurrent bachelor's/master's degree program (see below) or as a graduate student.

As a rule, graduate students are admitted to the PhD program in Mathematics and earn an MA or MS when they complete their PhD comprehensive exam. Students may choose to leave the program with MA/MS degree. Under certain circumstances, students can be admitted to the graduate program for a terminal MA/MS degree, in which case the prerequisites are the same as for the doctoral program.

Concurrent Degree Program

BA/MA in Mathematics
The Department of Mathematics Concurrent Bachelor's/Master's Program leads to both a BA in Mathematics and either an MA in Mathematics or an MS in Applied Mathematics. It allows highly motivated and successful students to experience graduate-level coursework earlier in their education than would otherwise be possible, and also allows them to obtain a master's degree in a reduced time period. Students are allowed to count six hours of graduate-level Mathematics Department coursework towards both their undergraduate and graduate degree requirements.

The earliest admission to the program is after the successful completion of at least total 45 credit hours and a minimum of two upper division courses from the Department of Mathematics. Students must have at least one year of coursework remaining towards the completion of their undergraduate degree in order to be admitted to the program. Students admitted to the program may not pursue a double degree or a double major; however, outside minors are allowed.

For more information, see the Concurrent Bachelor's/Master's Program Overview document.

Requirements

Admission Requirements
Applicants must have demonstrated mathematical maturity and accomplishment roughly at the level of a successful mathematics major at CU Boulder. Applicants must also demonstrate mathematical potential: success in courses in advanced calculus and abstract algebra help demonstrate this potential. General and mathematics GRE subject scores are required for PhD students.

Degree Requirements
Students must complete 30 hours of approved credit. At least 24 credit hours must be completed at the 5000 level or above. A maximum of six credit hours may be completed at the 3000 or 4000 level if approved by the department. Students must take two 2-semester sequences. For fulfillment of all course requirements, mathematics courses must be numbered 5000 or higher excluding MATH 5820.

For the MS degree in applied mathematics, 6–12 credit hours must be in an approved minor program outside the mathematics department.

Students should read carefully the materials describing the university requirements in the Graduate School section. The student is responsible for satisfying these requirements at the proper time.

Examinations
To earn an MA degree, a student must pass a master's examination based on the particular program of the student.

Thesis
For the MA degree in mathematics, students can pursue a thesis option, which requires 4–6 credit hours of thesis work, and a thesis defense.