

Rice University Math Freshman Mentorship Program, Fall 2020

The Rice University Math Freshman Mentorship Program will pair first-year students interested in the Math, CAAM, or Stats major or minor with juniors, seniors, or graduate students in small mentorship groups to ease the transition to college-level mathematics. It is not intended to be a tutoring program, but to help build an inclusive community within the mathematical sciences at Rice. This mentorship program is sponsored by the Rice AWM Chapter and the Rice Mathematics Diversity Committee. All meetings in Fall 2020 will take place online.

Roles:

- *Mentors* will share their knowledge about the major, advice for college life, and experience in their disciplines with approximately 1-3 mentees in small group meetings throughout the semester. Mentors will also participate in meetings with the faculty organizers throughout the semester.
- *Mentees* will discuss their academic goals and study plans with their mentors, and will also have the opportunity to ask any questions they like about the college experience or the experience of being a mathematical sciences major or minor.

List of events:

- *Information* about the program will be available on our website <https://math.rice.edu/freshman-mentorship-program>.
- *Mentee selection process*: Mentees will apply to the program via a Google form, due **Wednesday, September 2**.
- *Mentor selection process*: Mentors will indicate their interest in the program via a Google form, due **Wednesday, September 2**.
- *Matching*: Mentors and mentees will be notified of their matches early in the **week of September 8**.
- *Mentor onboarding*: There will be a virtual mentor onboarding meeting on **Tuesday, September 8 at 5 PM Central**, Zoom details TBA. A recording of the onboarding meeting will be made available to mentors unable to attend the meeting.
- *Initial virtual meeting*: Mentors should contact their mentees by **Friday Sept 11** to set up a time to meet during the **week of Sept 14**. A 60 minute group meeting is advised if schedules permit so that mentees assigned to the same mentor can be in contact. In addition to introductions, the first meeting should include discussions of study strategies for the first midterm as well as how to utilize professor and TA office hours.

- *Group meetings:* Mentors should take the lead on coordinating monthly 1 hour group meetings. Mentees should coordinate and come up with topics to discuss ahead of group meetings - examples include time management, impostor syndrome, staying positive while managing setbacks, and spring course selections.
- *1-1 virtual meetings:* Mentors should meet each of their mentees one on one for 20-30 minutes each during the **first week of October** (prior to the drop deadline of October 9) to talk about the first midterm, and have a similar 1-1 meeting **after the second midterm** and **final exam**. Mentors should check to see if the initial course placement is a good fit, and if not discuss the option to drop back by October 9. Mentees should initiate contact with their mentor to set up the 1-1 virtual meetings.
- *Calculus Midterm virtual study sessions:* Virtual drop in study sessions staffed by mentors in the program, for any mentees to discuss study strategies and course-specific questions. The first study sessions will take place **ahead of the week of September 28**, when the first calculus midterms are scheduled.
- *Perspectives for Prospectives:* In **early November** the Math Diversity Committee will host a virtual event for prospective math majors and minors discussing the course offerings for Spring 2021.
- *Mentor mentorship panel:* In October or November the faculty organizers will host a virtual panel of faculty members to whom the mentors can ask their grad-school or career-related questions.