Welcome

UNLV’s Mathematical Sciences Ph.D. program is Nevada’s only Ph.D. program in the Mathematical Sciences. It is relatively new (established in 2005) and includes concentrations in Applied Math, Pure Math, Computational Math, and Statistics to serve students in many different areas of Mathematical Sciences.

Mission Statement(s)

Mathematics is the foundation for many technical and scientific fields. Mathematics aids and supplements our intuitions about the physical universe and about human behavior. The department of mathematical sciences provides a broad spectrum of courses and opportunities in mathematics and statistics.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or kendall.hartley@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

Program Information

Doctor of Philosophy – Mathematical Sciences

Subplan 1: Post-Bachelor’s – Applied Mathematics Track
Subplan 2: Post-Bachelor’s – Computational Mathematics Track
Subplan 3: Post-Bachelor’s – Pure Mathematics Track
Subplan 4: Post-Bachelor’s – Statistics Track
Subplan 5: Post-Master’s – Applied Mathematics Track
Subplan 6: Post-Master’s – Computational Mathematics Track
Subplan 7: Post-Master’s – Pure Mathematics Track
Subplan 8: Post-Master’s – Statistics Track
“Contact Information

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http://www.unlv.edu/math

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Program Requirements
Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience are found in the graduate catalog.

Advisory Committee Guidelines
Every student will form an Advisory Committee after passing the qualifying exams, typically within two semesters. Students will find a department faculty member willing to direct their dissertation research; this faculty member will be the chair (or co-chair) of the Advisory Committee. The committee will also have at least two other members from the department, and at least one member from outside the department.

Degree Program Benchmarks

Qualifying Examination. The purpose of the Qualifying Examination is to measure the student’s knowledge of basic graduate course work in selected areas and to make sure that the student is prepared to proceed to more advanced studies.

a. A doctoral student normally takes the Qualifying Examination within the second year after entering the program, based on the core courses in the student’s concentration.

b. Doctoral students must pass the Qualifying Examination within three years.

c. The Qualifying Examination consists of two parts, corresponding to Required Courses Part 1 and Part 2.

d. A student who fails the Qualifying Examination on the first attempt will be placed on probation and must complete a second examination within the next twelve months.

i. A post-bachelor’s track student who fails the second examination may be allowed to complete a M.S. degree with the consent of the Graduate Studies Committee. Such a student will not be permitted to seek readmission to the Doctoral Program in Mathematical Sciences at UNLV.

ii. A post-master’s track student who fails the Qualifying Examination a second time will be separated from the program.
e. Typically a passing score for a qualifying exam is 70%. About 60% is a pass for an MS (a masters student taking the exam, or a PhD student under d.i. above).
f. The exams are usually given once a year, the week before classes start in August.

**Comprehensive Examination:** The purpose of the Comprehensive Examination is to measure a doctoral student’s knowledge of the advanced level graduate work that will be required as the student begins to do original research in his or her area of concentration.

a. After passing the Qualifying Examination and forming an Advisory Committee, a student will engage in the approved course work specified by the Doctoral Advisory Committee and submit to the latter a dissertation proposal.

b. Usually one year after forming the Advisory Committee, a student will complete the Comprehensive Examination, designed and administered by the Doctoral Advisory Committee, based on the student’s course work with focus on his/her ability to perform research on the dissertation proposal. The exam may be written or oral. It is often a talk by the student on the proposed research. Pass/fail is determined by the Advisory Committee.

c. A student who fails the Comprehensive Examination on the first attempt must complete a second examination within the next semester. A student who fails the examination a second time will be separated from the Doctoral Program.

d. A student who has successfully passed the Comprehensive Examination will be admitted to Candidacy for the Ph.D. degree and thereby be allowed to proceed with the approved dissertation proposal.

**Dissertation:** A doctoral candidate is expected to complete a dissertation embodying the results of significant original research, which is performed independently by the student, and is acceptable to the student’s advisory committee. A student must enroll in a minimum of 18 credits of Dissertation.

**Program Timeline**
Most students take about six years to finish.

**Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines**
UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog.

American Mathematical Society Ethical Guidelines.

American Statistical Association Ethical Guidelines.

Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics Authorial Integrity in Scientific Publication

**Annual Review Procedures**
Students are required to make adequate yearly progress towards degree completion. Each spring semester the student’s yearly progress will be assessed by their advisory committee, if formed, or the department graduate committee. Satisfactory progress includes taking the recommended courses and earning a B or better. Note that courses with a grade of C- or below cannot be used towards a degree.
Discipline Resources
Professional Organizations:
- American Mathematical Society (AMS)
- American Statistical Association (ASA)
- Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)

University Resources
Academic Success Center
The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete their studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association
With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office
Located in the UNLV Registrar’s Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives
The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV’s diversity mission: to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars
International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women's Center
The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

UNLV Libraries
UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)
The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct
The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the UNLV Student Code of Conduct by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Office of Veteran Services
The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office
The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center
This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures
Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog:

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Policies
- Admission and Registration Information
- Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

*Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.*

**Handbook Information**
Revisions to this handbook are approved by the department graduate committee.

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<td>2/10/2015</td>
<td>Douglas Burke</td>
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