

MATHEMATICS

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/>). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/>).

Scores from the Graduate Record Examinations Aptitude Test (GRE), or from a comparable substitute examination accepted by the Mathematics graduate program, are not required for admission. Those scores can still be included if the applicant has them and they will then be considered by the admission committee.

To be admitted to the Ph.D. program without undergraduate deficiency, an applicant should have completed at least 18 credits in mathematics at the advanced undergraduate level (400 series or their equivalents). The undergraduate student is urged to take at least 6 credits in foundations of analysis (MATH 401), 6 in modern algebra (MATH 435 and MATH 436), and 3 in topology (MATH 429) or their equivalents. These courses are essential preparation for the graduate program, and if they are taken after admission, a maximum of 6 credits may be counted toward an advanced degree. Students are typically admitted directly to the Ph.D. program, though may on occasion be admitted first to the M.A. degree when not meeting all of the above requirements.

Students with a 3.00 junior/senior average and with appropriate course backgrounds will be considered for admission. The best-qualified applicants will be accepted up to the number of spaces that are available for new students.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students/>) for more information.