

So, you want to be accepted to participate in the DRP...

This document is a summary of everything you can do, as a student, to give yourself a better chance of getting paired with a graduate student mentor. Each year, many more student apply to the program than we have the resources to accommodate. Many factors determine who is and is not paired with a mentor, including the number of volunteer mentors that semester who are knowledgeable in your desired area of study. However, some of the factors are in your control!

1. Don't give up!

Keep applying to the DRP. If you didn't get in this semester, you are more likely to get in next semester. We give higher priority to people who have taken more math classes, and who are older and have not yet done DRP. The idea is that older people will have fewer chances to do DRP, so we prioritize them. If you've been turned down a lot of times in a row, politely let us know in your application.

2. Take more math classes!

It is easier for us to pair people who have more experience. A lot of interesting math involves combining two easier fields of math. Hence, if you know more material, there are more projects you are able to understand. Also, it is much easier on our mentors if you have taken **at least one proof-based math course**, for example, Discrete Math. This is a pretty important cut-off when we are pairing.

3. Get to know the graduate students and faculty!

We take faculty and graduate student recommendations very seriously. If there is someone in the department (or another related department) that likes you, ask them to let us know. If you know a math graduate student who you'd like to work with, discuss it with them personally. If a grad student and undergrad request each other, we will almost always pair them.

4. Tell us why you want to do the DRP!

When an applicant tells us how interested they are in math research, or that they are wondering about math graduate school, or that they are interested in broadening their math horizons, it makes us want to let them in.

There are also a few other ways you can get involved with math research as an undergraduate.

There are programs at many universities called **REU's** (Research Experience for Undergraduates). These are typically summer programs that **pay you money to learn about math research**. Applications are usually due in the winter. [Here](#) is the American Mathematical Society's (slightly incomplete) list of math REU's. Apply to them, although they typically favor applicants who are Juniors.

UT Austin supports a chapter of the **AWM** (Association for Women in Math), with which you can get involved. They support inclusion of people of all genders in the math community. Look for posters around the math department for meeting times.

UT also has an undergraduate math club. [Here](#) is their facebook page. Join in their activities to be a part of the math community.

In summary, you have many opportunities to continue exploring mathematics as an undergraduate at UT. Keep mathematics in your life!