DRP Guidelines

1 Choosing a Topic

A good DRP topic is something that is not covered in a typical undergraduate class. A topic should be chosen by the student with guidance from the mentor. Students have an idea of what they are interested in, and mentors have an idea of what might be feasible to learn in a semester.

2 Expectations

This year the program will be virtual. We understand that not everyone has access to a perfect internet connection, so there is some flexibility in how the meetings will happen. If your internet connection supports video calling, your meetings will be hour long Zoom video calls, where you can use a tablet to write, use your phone as a document camera, etc. If your internet does not support video calls, you can do voice calls and supplement these calls with emails and other written communication throughout the week. However, the student must be at a higher level of mathematical experience for these voice calls to be meaningful, and we must be able to find a mentor comfortable with that.

2.1 For students

Students are expected to meet with their mentors once per week for about an hour. Between meetings they should spend 4-5 hours on DRP related work. At the end of the semester they are expected to produce a project related to the semester’s work.

2.2 For mentors

Mentors are expected to meet with their students once per week for about an hour. Mentors should let the organizers know as soon as possible about any issues that arise. Such issues might include a student not working or deciding to leave the program. If a student misses two meetings in a row without forewarning, please email the DRPOs at drp@math.utexas.edu.

3 Projects

At the end of the semester, each student will produce a project about something they learned during the semester. The project does not need to (indeed they should not) cover everything the student learned during the semester. It is okay to pick one thing, such as the proof of some theorem or a worked example.

As the time nears, we will provide more details about acceptable formats, but they will be along the lines of recorded talks, written lecture notes, etc. One of the goals of DRP is for students to get practice communicating mathematics, so the projects are just as important as the math that they learn.

The due date for the projects will be Friday, December 4th, 2020.
4 Books

Up to $50 will be reimbursed for the purchase of a book for the student. Mentors should purchase books, and then send the receipts to drp@math.utexas.edu. All reimbursements will be processed at the end of the semester.

5 Questions and Concerns

All questions and concerns should be addressed to drp@math.utexas.edu.