

Mathematics Assessment Report, Fall 2010

Step 5: Analyze and interpret the data

The results of the 2009 administration of the Major Field Test in mathematics, taken by 2 students, are these:

Assessment Indicator Title	Mean Percent Correct
Calculus	50
Algebra	37
Routine	47
Nonroutine	33
Applied	35

While these data are not encouraging, it is difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from a sample space of size 2. We believe it prudent to await the results of further MFT administrations before taking action.

Step 6: How will the data collected be used for decision-making, strategic planning, etc.?

Assessment activity in the DMCS has been interrupted by the recent decision of the administration and the Board of Trustees to eliminate the computer science major and one more tenure-track line within the department—the second one taken from the department since the fall of 2009. While we are trying to figure out how to operate a department while teaching 11 fewer courses per year than in 2008-2009, we have nonetheless identified some places within the mathematics major where some changes can and should be made.

1. We have replaced Math 236: Linear Algebra by Math 247: Differential Equations and Linear Algebra in the list of foundation courses for all four tracks of the major. This fills a gap in our major which has been apparent for at least 12 years.

2. We will discontinue Math 236 after the spring semester of 2011 and replace it with a new upper-division course, Math 349: Advanced Linear Algebra, to debut in the fall of 2012 and to be taught every other fall thereafter. This course will require Math 247 as a prerequisite and allow in-depth study of linear algebra to a degree not currently possible.