The department offers the MA in mathematics and also in computer science. The requirements for the master of arts degree are designed to ensure a basic knowledge and the capacity for sustained, independent scholarly study. At least three semesters of full-time study beyond an undergraduate degree are usually needed to complete all requirements for the MA degree. Any program leading to the MA degree must be planned in consultation with the departmental Graduate Education Committee.

COURSES

Six one-semester graduate courses in addition to the research units MATH549 and MATH550 or COMP549 and COMP550 are required for the MA degree. The choice of courses will be made in consultation with the faculty advisor and the departmental Graduate Education Committee.

THESIS | DISSERTATION | DEFENSE

Thesis. The thesis is a written report of a topic requiring an independent search and study of the mathematical literature. Performance is judged largely on scholarly organization of existing knowledge and on expository skill, but some indications of original insight are expected.

Defense. In the final examination, an oral presentation of the MA thesis, the candidate is to exhibit an expert command of the chosen specialty and a high degree of expository skill. The oral presentation may include an oral exam on the material in the first-year courses. A faculty committee evaluates the candidate’s performance.