

Salisbury University Department of Mathematical Sciences

MATH 390 : Undergraduate Research Project Syllabus (Tentative)

Description: Offers study of some area of the mathematical sciences in more depth than is possible in the usual classroom setting. Students work on a project under the direction of faculty members. 1–3 Hours Credit.

Prerequisites: Approval of research committee and department chair.

Intended Audience: Mathematics and Data Science majors wishing to do a research project in mathematics, statistics, and/or data science.

Objective: To expose students to the excitement and rigor of research. This course is offered on a pass/fail basis and is designed to allow students to pursue independently an important area of mathematics, statistics, or data science of particular interest. Each student works on a project under the direction of a faculty member. Students intending to go to graduate school are particularly encouraged to take this course. A final paper, which will be kept on file in the Department Office, and an oral presentation are required.

Expectations: To ensure that the goals and expectations of the project are clear to all concerned, before registering for this course, the student must have completed and have on file in the Departmental Office the Undergraduate Research Application Form. The Project Committee, consisting of the project director and two other department members, decides on the number of credit hours to be awarded (1–3), sets the standards for a Pass, and evaluates the project.

The project director helps the student design a research plan, meets with the student regularly throughout the term to offer guidance and direction, and informs the other committee members on the status of the project.

The following is a schedule for a typical project:

Activity	Week
Midterm Progress Report	6
Meeting with Project Committee	7
Draft of Final Report	12
Meeting with Project Committee	13
Oral Presentation	13
Final Report (typed)	14

The oral presentation to students and faculty should be a summary of the research. The final report should include a discussion of the original proposal and any modifications made to the original proposal, a discussion of the results of the project, and a conclusion. Upon completion of the project, the Project Committee awards the final grade.

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- Clear descriptions of thought processes, evidence of critical thinking, and effective communication must be demonstrated in written work.
 - **Writing Across the Curriculum:** Students will be expected to communicate mathematics and mathematical ideas effectively in speech and writing. At the University Writing Center, trained consultants are ready to help you at any stage of the writing process. In addition to the important writing instruction that occurs in the classroom and during professors' office hours, the Center offers another site for learning about writing. **All students are encouraged to make use of these important services.**
 - **NOTE:** Once a student has received credit, including transfer credit, for a course, credit may not be received for any course with material that is equivalent to it or is a prerequisite for it.