

ASSESSMENT PLAN NARRATIVE

Master of Arts in Mathematics

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS

This document describes the Department of Mathematics and Statistics (DMS) plan for assessing the MA program in Mathematics (MA).

1. OU Mission Goals

Among the goals listed in the Oakland University Mission Statement, our assessment activities will focus on Excellence in Graduate Programs, and Research and Scholarship. These goals are central to the mission of the DMS graduate programs.

2. Department Goals

We will continue to provide excellent graduate programs. The MA in Mathematics has been in existence for many years. We awarded four Ph.D. degrees in each of the last two years, and we expect to continue producing graduates at roughly the same pace. The overall purpose of this program is twofold: to prepare students for teaching careers at the post secondary level and/or for subsequent pursuit of a PhD degree. The program is intended to provide opportunities for research experiences for our students, as well as broad exposure to the various branches of mathematics.

We believe the quality of this program is excellent; we intend to keep it this way.

3. Learning Outcomes

The MA program is designed to accomplish the following student learning outcomes:

- A. Deep knowledge of course material, both theory and application.
- B. Exposure to, and an understanding of, the nature of research in mathematics.

4. Methods of Assessment

The key internal/direct measure of our level of success in attaining the stated learning outcomes is performance on the required comprehensive examination. External/indirect measures include student exit interviews and follow-up interviews with alumni.

5. Assessment Administration

The DMS Committee on Graduate Programs (a standing committee) will have the responsibility of overseeing and administering the assessment activities. It is chaired by the department's

Coordinator for Graduate Programs, who is a continuing member of the DMS Steering Committee (i.e., executive committee). The chair of the department is an ex-officio member of the Graduate Programs Committee.

6. Assessment Procedures

All comprehensive examination results will be evaluated by appropriate DMS faculty members. Student exit interviews will be conducted by members of the Committee on Graduate Programs. Alumni survey data will be collected on a two year cycle. During each academic year, the Committee on Graduate Programs will review the available assessment data along with other relevant information and determine whether any changes to the program are needed. As necessary, the Committee will develop proposals for departmental approval, and in any case the Committee will report to the department on an annual basis.