What can I do with a major in mathematics?

The quantitative skills students acquire through studying math are in high demand for many careers. Some possible careers math majors might consider include:

- Actuary
- Computer systems analyst
- Cryptographer
- Economist
- Financial analyst
- Market research analyst
- Mathematician
- Statistician
- Teacher/Professor

Some of these careers may require additional education beyond the bachelor’s degree. A math major could also be excellent preparation for other professional graduate programs, such as law, medicine, or business.

Common concentrations within the mathematics undergraduate major include:

- Applied mathematics
- Philosophy
- Probability and statistics
- Mathematics and computer science
- Mathematics and economics
- Teaching preparation

At some universities, these may also be separate majors.

How can I prepare at Seattle Central for a major in math?

Students planning to major in mathematics at a baccalaureate institution usually take courses in **calculus and advanced mathematics, as well as general education requirements**, to prepare to transfer. Some universities will also require **computer science and additional natural science** courses. Specific requirements vary according to the transfer university, so it is strongly recommended that students work with an advisor at Seattle Central as well as advisors at the universities where they are considering transferring to ensure they take the appropriate classes to be prepared to enter the major when they transfer.

Students planning to major in math should consider earning the Associate of Arts – DTA degree, or possibly the Associate of Science – DTA, to prepare to transfer. Advisors can help students look at prerequisite requirements and choose the degree that will work best for them.
Tips for Success as a Mathematics Major

- Students planning to major in mathematics will need a full year (three quarters) of calculus plus additional higher level math courses. It is important to start taking math classes right away, especially if you do not test directly into calculus, so that you will have time to complete the required higher level math courses.
- Check prerequisites, admission requirements, and GPA requirements at your intended transfer university early so you can be well-prepared to transfer.
- Most universities offer a mathematics major, but the concentrations and related majors they offer can vary. If you want to study applied mathematics, for instance, make sure your intended transfer university offers that focus.
- Check both university admission and graduation requirements at your preferred transfer university as a guide to choosing your classes. Some universities, for example, may require a year of foreign language as a graduation requirement. It may be much easier (and cheaper!) to meet that requirement at Seattle Central rather than waiting until later.

Where can I earn a bachelor’s degree in math in Washington?

Many universities offer mathematics as an undergraduate major. You can use the College Navigator search engine found at http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/ to find math programs in Washington State or around the country.

Next Steps:

- Research the universities you are interested in attending and the prerequisite classes they require for your major.
- Meet with an advisor to choose a transfer degree, discuss prerequisites, and plan what classes you need to take in the next quarter or two.
- Explore the professional organizations in your area of interest for more information about education and career options.