



MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

PERIODIC PROGRAM REVIEW SELF-STUDY

2019-2020

Part One—Program Self-Study Outline

I. Executive summary

The Mathematics Department values education at all levels. Faculty (both full and part time) go beyond in and out of the classroom when it comes to supporting students. This universally shared commitment to teaching Brockport's students regardless of major or mathematical background is one of our greatest strengths. Faculty frequently meet with students during regularly scheduled office hours as well as at special meeting times. A variety of assessment techniques are used to better assist students in the learning process. Anxiety and other personal issues are dealt with as gently as possible. Students are given many opportunities to participate in directed and independent studies, internships, math competitions, research projects, and case studies.

Mathematics is an everlasting and essential part of education and the world. The latest hot fields like Data Science and Informatics rely on a strong mathematical foundation. We recognize this and the fact that the foundations we teach must remain in place even if the way we teach them may have to adjust to best meet the needs of our current students. Faculty continuously make strides to keep up to date not only in their own specialty, but also in new subfields, even though their publication count might be lower as a result. We do love our research and are committed to quality work.

We are passionate about teaching not only STEM majors, but also those students with different interests who require additional skills in mathematics. We wish to provide this training more affordably to our students, which is why many of our courses have switched to (or have traditionally had) Open Educational Resources (OER resources). We also are the only department that has required proctored exams as a standard component of online courses, to maintain the value of a Brockport degree.

Engagement with the community is important to the faculty. Many full and part time faculty sit on local boards and volunteer in the area. Running math competitions, holding our first ever BioStats Day, and involvement with the MAA are some of the means faculty have interacted with our discipline-specific community. We could and would do more if we were not spread so thin.

We do all that we can to help Brockport be sustainable, but more recognition from the College and additional support for the mathematical foundation and skills that our students require would certainly help us to better provide these to our students.

Fortunately, our department is a team. We truly enjoy working with each other as everyone cares so much about all that is important: students, coworkers, mathematics, and statistics. This department (faculty, staff and students) is the best part of working at Brockport. There are certainly many other wonderful people that we work with on a regular basis; however, the team atmosphere of our department is our greatest strength.