

# PhD Graduate Student Orientation

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# General Information

## Regulations and Requirements

- Math Dept Graduate Webpage <http://www.math.uh.edu/> or <http://www.uh.edu/nsm/math/graduate/>
- New and Returning Students <http://www.uh.edu/nsm/math/graduate/new-students/>
- Graduate Academic Policies <http://www.uh.edu/nsm/students/graduate/policies/>
- Forms

## Administration

- Graduate Advisor Neha Valji
- Director of Graduate Studies Ilya Timofeyev  
**Updates:** <http://www.math.uh.edu/~ilya/gs>
- Include peoplesoft id in all communication

## Graduate Standing

- A = 4.0, B = 3.0, C = 2.0
- Four “C+” Rule
- The Department evaluates your performance every year

## General Information

### Teaching Assistantship and Tuition Waiver

- Available only to Ph.D. Students
- Tuition Waiver: Graduate Tuition Fellowship (GTF)
- Time Limit for GTF: 5 years
- GPA 3.0 or higher
- Must be enrolled Full-Time (9 credit hours during Fall/Spring)
- May or May Not be required to enroll during Summer

### Supplies Policy

- Department Equipment and Supplies are provided for Professional Use Only

### Out of Department Courses

- Requires the Approval of the Graduate Director
- Rice Courses: Approval of the Advisor and Graduate Director

### Webpages

- We strongly encourage students to create a webpage by the end of the First Year

# Graduate Student Seminar

- Friday 2-3pm PGH 646
- Research Information in the Department
- Professional Development
- Professional Societies - SIAM, AMS, AWM
- Free Pizza!!
- Schedule on the Department Webpage “Graduate Studies”, “Activities”

Students are expected to attend the Graduate Student Seminar; excessive absence may affect your graduate standing.

# Colloquium and Research Seminars

## Colloquium

- Wednesday 3-4pm PGH 646
- Research Talks accessible to a general audience

## Research Seminars

- Department has several research seminars  
[www.math.uh.edu](http://www.math.uh.edu) click on **Research**

## Timely Arrival and Departure

If you choose to go on vacation during the summer or winter break -

- Please check with the instructor when you can leave (usually after grading)
- The semester is officially over with the last day to post grades
- Come Back in the middle of the week before classes start to receive your TA assignment

# Professional Societies

- SIAM: Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
<https://www.math.uh.edu/uhsiam/>
- AMS: American Mathematical Society  
<https://www.math.uh.edu/ams/>
- AWM: Association for Women in Mathematics  
<https://www.math.uh.edu/awm/>

## Computer Accounts and Use

- A UH computer account and email (uh.edu) is automatically created
- A department account (math.uh.edu) is also created for you and is your primary account for all communication within the department
- IT support: help@math.uh.edu
- You're expected to check your email daily - [Read Your Email!!](#)

### Attention!!

- We never ask you for your PASSWORD
- NEVER email your PASSWORD to anyone
- NEVER click on any links in the email or text message



## Academic Information

- First two years (approximately) - your main priority is passing 3 preliminary examinations
  - For most students the appropriate time to start research is 3rd or 4th semester
  - Take your time to familiarize yourself with research activities in the department
  - First year - 3 classes per semester
- After 4 semesters you're expected to pass all 3 preliminary examinations and have an advisor
- Your performance is evaluated on a continuous basis
  - Academic Standing
  - Research Performance
  - Performance as a TA
  - Professors' Evaluations

## Preliminary Exams

- At least 1 core sequence **May, August**  
Real Variables, Numerical Analysis, Applicable Analysis

Examination topic groups:

- Algebra
  - MATH 6302: Modern Algebra **January, May**
- Topology
  - MATH 6342: Topology **January, May, August**
  - MATH 7352: Riemannian Geometry **May, August**
- Analysis
  - MATH 6320;6321: Real Variables **May, August**
  - MATH 6322: Complex Variables **January, May**
- Applied Mathematics
  - MATH 6360;6361: Applicable Analysis **May, August**
- Probability and Statistics
  - MATH 6382: Probability **January, May, August**
  - MATH 6383: Mathematical Statistics **May, August**
- Computational Mathematics
  - MATH 6366: Optimization **January, May, August**
  - MATH 6370;6371: Numerical Analysis **May, August**

# Annual Performance Review

- Goal: demonstrate progress towards your PhD
- Time: end of you 3rd and 4th years
- Format: written or oral presentation

# Career Planning

- Research - Various postdoctoral opportunities; the topic and quality of your dissertation is extremely important
- Industry - Applied math topics have the most chance of success.
  - Applied Mathematics
  - Computations
  - Imaging
  - Financial Math
- Teaching - Lecturer positions and tenure-track positions in teaching colleges; excellent teaching record demonstrating the ability for independent development of material, online teaching, etc.
  - Teaching is available in the department
  - Summer Lecturer positions
  - Experience Teaching Online classes is important