

## MA470: Reflection #1 - Mathematical Interests

*Goal:* One of the goals of this course is to produce a research proposal that will investigate an area of interest to you. This reflection will help you start the process of finding those interests by asking you to think reflectively about previous math courses you have taken and how mathematics might be combined with some of your interests outside of the classroom, while giving you exposure to the subject classifications that are out there regarding mathematics works.

*Assignment:* Answer the following questions about your mathematical interests by using LaTeX to answer each question (in the space below each question). Write your answers in the color [blue](#).

- 1) What has been your favorite math course at BSC so far and why? (“Because it was easy” is not an allowed answer :)).
- 2) Is there a particular mathematical topic (or more than one) you have seen in a previous class that intrigued you, and if so, why?
- 3) Has there been a time that you have gone beyond what an assignment required in a mathematics class? For example, did you ask yourself a “What if ...” or a “I wonder why...” question and then spent time trying to figure out your own question? Whether you solved the question or not is irrelevant. If you haven’t, write N/A.
- 4) Describe two of your extracurricular interests or hobbies outside of classes (e.g., sports, music, games, gardening, cooking, reading, student government, etc.). Google “Math and (FILL IN YOUR INTEREST)” and summarize some of the ways math has been used in these areas. Is there a way you can see taking one or more of these ideas further?
- 5) What are you most proud of in your math career at BSC and why? For example, a project that you spent a lot of time on, a topic that was difficult but after studying you really understood it, etc.
- 6) What are your career plans after this and why does that field appeal to you? If you are not certain, what are some options you are considering?
- 7) Have you watched a YouTube video or listened to a podcast over a math subject that really intrigued you? If so, describe the subject and why you enjoyed it. If not, write N/A.
- 8) Take a look at the MSC list posted on Moodle (the 2010 or 2020 version). What are some subjects that stand out to you? List 3-5 of them.