Fall 2020 Math UTA Reflection

Ashley Garber

This semester has been my second semester being an undergraduate teaching assistant, and just like last semester, I enjoyed it very much! This semester, I was mentored by Dr. Sunhi Choi and assisted with both sections of her Math 323, Proofs, class. My duties involved holding 2 office hours a week, grading homework 2-3 hours a week, holding review sessions before exams, attending the weekly UTA seminar, and helping out the math department with calculus tutoring for two hours a week.

I really liked being able to give students one-on-one help in my office hours. One of my favorite moments from this semester was working together with one of my students to figure out the answer to a tricky sequence of problems that I didn't know how to do at first, really cementing my skills in this class and contributing to my mathematical maturity as a whole. As we reached the end of the semester, the honors section began covering basic topology, which I was a little bit scared for since I was in the regular section of the class when I took it and didn't cover topology, but I still managed to work out the problems collaboratively with students and learn things that I wouldn't have learned until next semester ordinarily!

Most of my review sessions throughout the semester were well-attended, and I thought they all went very well. They gave me teaching experience with working out homework problems and lecturing to groups of more than just 4 or 5 students. Though my social anxiety at the thought of leading the review sessions was present, I managed to work through and past it, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to confront and overcome my anxieties.

Overall, being a UTA in 2020 has been a really fun, unique, and rewarding experience! I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is interested in mathematics or teaching, and I definitely hope to repeat the experience!