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UTA Program Reflection

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I joined the UTA program because I had always been the person among my friends who was asked for help with math, and several times my friends had made passing, perhaps flippant, remarks that I should be a professor or a teacher. I joined the UTA program to see if those ideas had any potential at all and to find out if I truly like teaching.

As it turns out, I absolutely do. Never before had I even considered being a professor, and since switching to a math major I really didn't have any specific career goal in mind. The UTA program has given me that career goal. While that is certainly the most impactful thing to come out of my experience with the UTA program, it is certainly not the only thing.

This program has also given me first-hand experience with many of the different responsibilities that go along with teaching. I was able to get experience tutoring one-on-one in a professional environment, tutoring in a group setting during office hours, assisting in-class with group work, grading, creating worksheets, proctoring exams, and even giving a lecture by myself.

Not only did I get experience doing this kind of work, but through the UTA program I was also able to receive great feedback while doing it. Working directly with an instructor and having their guidance is extremely valuable, and I am very thankful to my mentor, specifically, because he not only gave me his feedback, but he made absolutely sure that his students were giving me feedback as well. Having feedback from both sides meant I was getting the full picture of how my work was being received and how it was affecting the learning of the students. This feedback helped shape my communication skills and understanding of mathematical concepts, which have grown in ways that they never could as just a student.

Clearly, these are all opportunities I never would have had without the UTA program. I would like to personally thank Dr. Rachel Neville and Dr. Tiffany Jones for allowing me this opportunity to learn about myself and grow as an instructor, a tutor, a student, and as a member of the mathematics community here at the University of Arizona.