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UTA Program

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During my time as a UTA for Math 313, there were a few tasks that I performed every week. I graded linear algebra homework, held office hours, tutored calculus II/III students, attended the UTA seminar, and met with my professor. I also occasionally created my own problems and held review sessions before exams. Each of my different responsibilities fit nicely into my schedule, and I was able to manage everything without feeling overwhelmed.

My participation in the UTA program was quite beneficial for several reasons. The area where I saw the clearest improvement was my ability to formally and effectively communicate mathematical ideas. Although I always had confidence in my own math abilities, I always struggled a bit with explaining those ideas to other people. However, the UTA program provided me with plenty of opportunities to practice presenting and teaching to other people. By the end of the program, I was able to independently create problems for review sessions and confidently present and explain them to the students in the class I was assisting. Additionally, I've found that my tutoring skills have also improved quite a bit as a result, since I'm much more able to come up with clear explanations on the spot with topics I initially struggled to teach. I've also found that my conceptual understanding of topics from vector calc and linear algebra has improved quite a bit as well due to the process of tutoring.

Aside from just the teaching aspect, however, there are plenty of other valuable components to the program. During the weekly meetings that we had, there were plenty of important and exciting topics that we covered. For example, we got to interview grad students and professors to ask questions we had regarding industry/academia, there was an introduction to

using LaTeX, a presentation about recognizing and fighting implicit biases, etc. Due to the variety of topics that are covered in the seminar, as well the benefits of improved communication skills and confidence, I would definitely recommend the UTA program to anyone interested. In particular, I think the program is especially valuable since it forces you to leave your comfort zone at times, which is what will lead to plenty of personal growth.