

VIGRE Funding Report

(due 30 days after semester of support)

Semester/Summer and Year:

Summer 08

Name: Thomas Occhipinti

List the graduate courses you have taken this semester (including independent studies), your grades, and the instructors:

Course	Title	Grade	Instructor

List the title, date and location of any talks you have given, either here or elsewhere:

If you are working on your dissertation, include a one paragraph description of your research progress. If you have not yet begun dissertation research, describe your progress toward finding a dissertation topic and advisor and beginning that research.

I continued working on the problem I had been working on for my comprehensive, but due to lack of progress my advisor and I decided to move on to a different problem for my dissertation.

List publications, if any.

Check all activities you completed during the funded period:

Academics:

- Independent Study
- Oral Comprehensive Exam
- Commence Thesis Research
- Conference attendance
- Conference participation
- Complete PhD

Professional development and outreach:

- AP Calculus Visit
- High School Workshops
- Undergraduate Research Project
- Undergraduate Research Seminar
- Super TA
- Mentoring junior graduate students for the qualifying exams
- RTG (help organize)
- Research Seminar (help organize)

Other (please specify)

Attach a brief statement about your academic progress and professional development during the period of support.

Summer VIGRE Report for Thomas Occhipinti

I spent the majority of the summer working on making further progress on the problem I had worked on for my comprehensive exam. Using some methods from Fourier Analysis and working closely with my advisor I was able to generalize a result found in my comprehensive paper from the case of quadratic polynomials to the case of arbitrary polynomials. Unfortunately, after this initial success, most of the methods I attempted over the summer were unsuccessful. Towards the end of the summer I met with my advisor and we decided that, since the work on the previous problem was not particularly successful, I should start work on a different problem. This began at the very end of the summer and continues now.

I once again ran the algebra review sessions for the first year students studying for qualifying exams this summer. It went well, and I compiled my list of questions I went over into a study guide containing over 100 questions that I will distribute to the first years studying for qualifying exams next summer. I'm hoping this study guide will survive in the department for future grad students.