Mathematics

Mathematicians are creative. They find solutions for old problems—and discover new problems as well. You’ll see evidence of God as you study math at Northwestern because mathematical laws describe the workings of the universe—and its divine order and constancy.

4 study options

- Actuarial science major
- Mathematics major/minor
- Mathematics teaching major/minor
- Pre-engineering

Northwestern offers a physics curriculum that enables students to add a minor in physics or physics teaching.

Faculty

Northwestern’s full-time math and physics faculty all hold doctorates in specializations that range from math education to Fourier Feynman Transforms. One of the NWC math professors is the entrepreneurial developer of ADAPT, which is used by actuarial exam prep company Coaching Actuaries.

Actuarial science

The curriculum of our actuarial science program covers everything on the first two professional actuarial exams as well as some topics on the third and fourth exams. Northwestern students have typically passed two to four exams by the time they graduate; their pass rate is 94% (compared to national pass rates of around 50%). Northwestern is just 1 of 6 CCCU schools recognized on the Society of Actuaries’ exclusive list of Universities & Colleges with Actuarial Programs (UCAP). In addition, Northwestern’s actuarial science degree is ranked 18th on a list of the nation’s 40 best-value programs by online-accounting-degrees.net. NWC is 1 of 2 and the highest-ranked Christian college on the list.

Pre-engineering

Begin your engineering study at Northwestern and you’ll have the advantage of small classes and labs where you can get personal attention from your professors. You’ll work in a team-based, investigative environment, approaching problems much as you would in the real world. You’ll also receive a strong liberal arts education that will make you a better engineer.

3+2 dual degree. You can take advantage of a partnership with Washington University in St. Louis that enables you to earn 2 undergraduate degrees in 5 years: a math B.A. from NWC and an engineering bachelor’s degree from WashU. Our pre-engineering program is also carefully coordinated for ease of transfer to Iowa State University. Or if you’re interested in transferring elsewhere, bring information about the program that interests you to Northwestern’s pre-engineering adviser.

Adding it up

The diverse courses of Northwestern’s math and physics departments will teach you both analytical and creative problem-solving skills. Together those add up so you equal an attractive candidate, whether you’re headed into a career or graduate school. Northwestern math graduates are working as actuaries, engineers and teachers. They’re employed by the finance, computer and insurance industries and have pursued master’s and doctoral degrees in mathematics, as well as M.B.A. and law degrees.

To learn more about our professors and students, and see what graduates are doing:

nwciowa.edu/math