

WELCOME TO

Applied Mathematical Sciences (AMS)

New Student Orientation

August 25, 2026

AMS Undergraduate Chair: Changho Kim
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You're in the right place.

Welcome! 🖐️



Agenda

1

What Is Applied Math?

Three ideas, one major — and nine emphasis tracks.

2

Academic Advising

Meet your academic advisor regularly so your course plan keeps you on track to graduate on time.

3

Succeeding in Your First Semester

What we expect from you, professionalism, and why math builds on math.

4

Asking for Help

Office hours, Learning Assistants, the Math Center, CAPS, and more.

5

What's Next?

The undergraduate mixer, faculty advising, and staying in the loop.

Applied Math is Everywhere.

Here's where.

OpenAI



moderna



TESLA



Goldman
Sachs

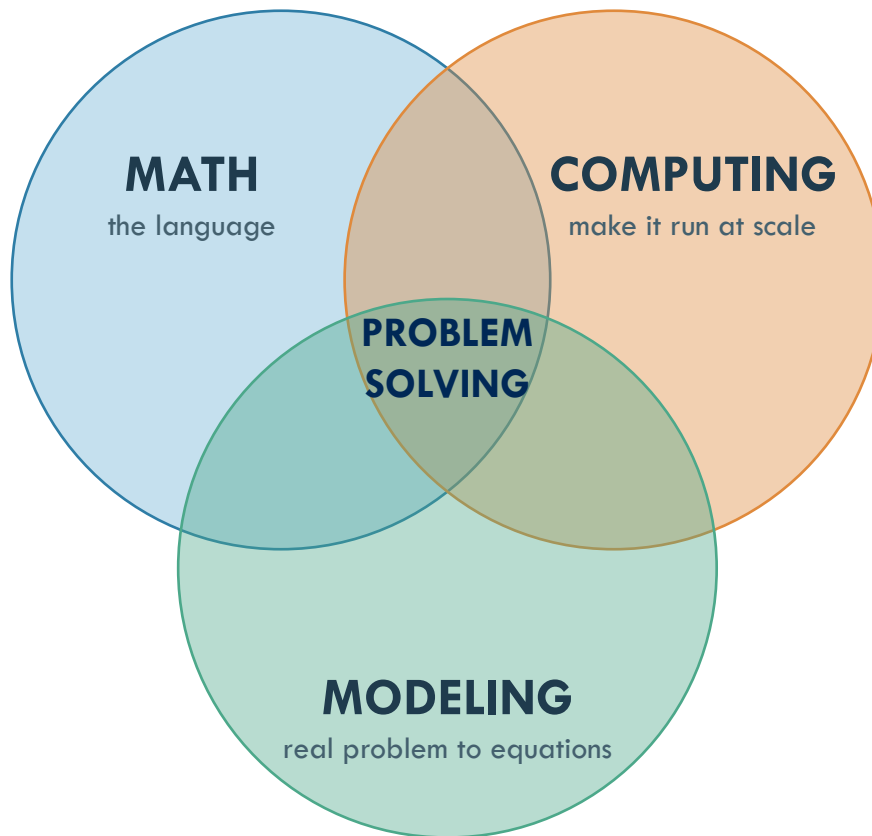


?

and many more

So What Is Applied Math?

A Problem Solver — *that's you.*



What kind of problems?

Nine emphasis tracks.

- Computational and Data Sciences
- Computational Biology
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental
- Physics
- *Custom Emphasis*

Which is why applied math shows up everywhere.

Academic Advising

Academic advising is a regular conversation with a professional advisor about your degree plan — which courses to take, in what order, and whether that plan still gets you to graduation on time.

Why it matters

- You must satisfy several sets of requirements — major, emphasis track, and General Education (GE).
- Many courses have prerequisites, so they must be taken in order.
- Some courses are not offered every semester.

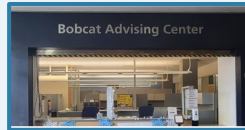
A schedule that looks fine to you can delay your graduation — it needs a second pair of eyes.

First-Year Students

Your advisor

A first-year advisor at the Bobcat Advising Center (BAC)

- After fall semester classes begin, meet at least once each semester.
- [Walk-in hours](#)
- [Make an appointment](#)



New Transfer Students

Your advisor

Erica Robbins, SNS Advising

- If you have not met yet, meet as soon as possible.
- [Walk-in hours](#)
- [Make an appointment](#)



Succeeding in Your First Semester



Know the expectations

Missing the minimum has an immediate consequence. Meeting the expectation is what makes your college years successful.



Practice professionalism

After graduation you step into a professional career. The professionalism it demands is a habit you start practicing now.



Math builds on math

Every math course is built on the one before it. Review what you learned and practice it every day, until it is truly yours.

The entire Applied Mathematics department — and UC Merced — wants you to succeed. In turn, take your learning and your classes seriously.

What We Expect From You

1



Know your instructors, professors, and TAs — names and email addresses.

2



Go to all classes and discussion sections, even when attendance is not taken.

3



Attend every class and take your own notes.

4



Read and understand every course syllabus.

5



Work every homework problem, even when it is not collected or graded.

6



Be active and engaged in your classes.

7



Know how to write email correctly and professionally.

8



Listen and follow instructions and guidelines in your classes.

9



Ask questions in lecture, office hours, and discussion sections.

Professionalism: Emailing an Instructor

Not like this

Subject:

hey

*i cant make the midterm friday, something came up.
can i take it some other day? thanks*

Sent the night before

No subject line, no course or section, no date, no reason, no proposed fix — and no name.

Like this

Subject: MATH 032 — Midterm conflict, Oct 17

Dear Professor Kim,

I am in your MATH 032 section (MW 9:00 a.m.). I have a documented medical appointment during the Oct 17 midterm and can send the confirmation.

Would sitting the exam on Oct 16 or 18 be possible? I can come whenever works for you.

Thank you, Jane Doe (ID 1234567)

Sent two weeks ahead, specific, documented, and it proposes a solution.

Check the syllabus first — the answer is often already there.

If it is not, write early, name the course and date, give the reason, and propose a solution.

Asking for Help

Do not get discouraged if the lectures and homework seem difficult — there are lots of resources and people to help you succeed in your classes.

Asking early is a strategy, not a weakness.

Office Hours

- Your instructor's and TA's hours are the fastest path to an answer.
- Bring a specific question — even a wrong attempt is a good start.
- Go even without a question — you learn from classmates' questions.

Learning Assistants

- Math classes (MATH 005, 021, 022) have undergraduate peer Learning Assistants who are there to help you during lectures.

STEM Tutoring Hub and the Math Center

- Drop-in tutoring and study support for your STEM courses, including math, chemistry, biology, CSE, physics, and engineering.
- Math Center: SSB 320
- Free!

Be careful with using AI tools

While these tools are helpful in some cases, they can seriously hinder your logical and critical thinking, which are crucial for learning. We cannot overemphasize the importance of practicing solving math problems — AI is not a substitute for doing homework problems.

When You Need Extra Support

Being in college can be overwhelming at first. You do not have to handle a hard semester alone. When school, health, or life gets heavy, these are the places to go — early, not as a last resort.

♥ [CAPS \(Counseling & Psychological Services\)](#)

🔑 [Student Accessibility Services](#)

🐇 **Math Club**

- Fridays, 3:00 – 4:30pm in Granite Pass 170
- Campus hub for peer mathematics learning and social connection



What's Next?

Applied Math Undergraduate Mixer

- Friday, September 11, 1:30 – 3:30pm
- Lunch provided
- T-shirt (for the first 100 students)
- RSVP required

Faculty Advising (October)

- Discuss math courses and careers (summer internships and research opportunities) with your faculty advisor.

Applied Math Undergraduate Newsletters

- Delivered monthly to your UCM email
- Announcements
- Events and career opportunities

Are you taking MATH 005 this semester?

- We strongly recommend you concurrently take MATH 005A (pass/fail, no final exam)



**FALL 2026
APPLIED MATH
UNDERGRADUATE
MIXER**

All Applied Math majors and minors are invited to connect with fellow students and meet faculty, instructors, TAs, learning assistants, and academic advisors. Attendees will have the opportunity to discover campus resources, academic opportunities, and ways to get involved.

Whether you're new to Applied Math or returning this fall, come meet your peers, build connections, and kick off the academic year with your Applied Math community!



Lunch will be provided

First 100 attendees will receive an Applied Math t-shirt

 **September 11, 2026**

 **1:30 - 3:30pm**

 **Conference Center Room 105**

 appliedmath@ucmerced.edu

 appliedmath.ucmerced.edu



RSVP required

Questions?

math.undergrad.chair@ucmerced.edu

AMS Undergraduate Chair (Prof. Changho Kim)