Florida State University
School of Teacher Education
Doctorate of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Curriculum & Instruction
Major in Mathematics Education

The major in Mathematics Education is intended to prepare graduates for work in mathematics teacher education and mathematics education research. Specific career destinations include faculty positions in mathematics or education departments (depending on one's background and interests), positions as postdoctoral researchers, as well as positions with state departments of education, school districts, curriculum developers, and so on.

Who is this program for?
There is **not** a single profile of applicant that the program is designed to serve. Instead, we recognize that applicants may bring **various strengths** based on their backgrounds. In particular, when considering the suitability of applicants to the program, we take the following into account:
- Mathematics background (courses taken, grades earned, degrees)
- Teaching experience (K–12 or college-level, U.S. or international)
- Research experience (e.g., Master's thesis, employment in a research position)
- Other relevant experience (e.g., teacher leadership, involvement in professional development, active participation in organizations such as NCTM or FCTM).

We also consider the applicant's needs and career goals and how well positioned the program is to meet those needs and to help prepare the applicant for their desired career.

Below are examples of current and former doctoral students that exemplify different backgrounds and career goals.

Current PhD Students

Șebnem Atabaș
Hometown: Balikesir, Turkey

Șebnem graduated from the Department of Primary Education with a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from Bogazici University in 2009. After graduation, she spent one year in Absdorf Volkschule, Austria, as a Comenius Language Assistant. She then worked as a middle-school mathematics teacher in Istanbul for 6 years. During that time, she also completed a Master's degree in Primary Education at Bogazici University. She is a current a doctoral candidate. Her career goal is to become an Assistant Professor in Elementary Mathematics Education to increase the quality of instruction in mathematics classrooms and help all students enjoy learning mathematics.

Anairis de la Cruz Benito
Hometown: Cochoapa, Mexico

Anairis studied her undergraduate and master programs in Mathematics Education in Mexico, where she also worked for one year as a middle-school mathematics teacher. As an undergraduate, she researched elementary functions in complex variables. During her Master's program, she researched the topic of similarity of triangles at the secondary level. Anairis is currently interested in geometry proof at the high school level, and her career goal is to gain research experience and to develop her skills in mathematics teaching in order to work as a professor.

Minah Kim
Hometown: Andong, Gyeongbuk, South Korea

Ms. Minah Kim is a doctoral student working under Dr. Christine Andrews-Larson. Her academic interests are mathematics teacher learning, inquiry-oriented teaching in undergrad mathematics, and sociopolitical perspective in mathematics education. Ms. Kim completed her B.S in Mathematics Education in South Korea in 2013. After graduation, she worked as a middle-school math teacher for five years. Then, she decided to study at FSU, where she completed her Master's degree in Mathematics in before beginning her doctoral studies in Mathematics Education.

Șeyda Uysal
Hometown: Isparta, Turkey

Șeyda earned her B.S. degree in Mathematics and her Teaching Certificate from Ankara University. She then taught in K–12 school settings for 4 years. As a doctoral candidate at FSU, she has served as a TA for EDF 1005. She also works as a research assistant, contributing to the NSF-funded E-Rebuild project. Șeyda's scholarly work is grounded in secondary–tertiary transition experiences of women and underrepresented minority students majoring in mathematics. As a scholar and educator, she aims to promote inclusive and equitable spaces in higher education for individuals with diverse backgrounds. Her career goal is to work as a faculty member at a research university.

Recent PhD Graduates

Kelly Findley
Hometown: Houston, TX

Before beginning a PhD in Math Education, Kelly completed a Bachelor's degree in Pure Mathematics and began a PhD in Statistics at FSU. During his time as a Statistics TA, he developed interests in advancement of statistics curriculum, instructional strategies for statistics, and professional development for TAs. He decided to complete a Master's degree in Statistics and then pursue a PhD in Mathematics Education. Kelly is now a Teaching Assistant Professor of Statistics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. He teaches undergraduate statistics courses, spearheads TA training and

professional development in his department, and conducts research into student thinking and instructor preparation in statistics.
https://stat.illinois.edu/directory/profile/kfindley
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Kelly_Findley

Muhammad Qadeer Haider
Hometown: Sargodha, Pakistan

Qadeer taught Mathematics and Computer Science at the high school and college levels for more than 11 years and in 3 different countries. He has Master's degrees in both Computer Science and Mathematics. Qadeer's research interest is in assessment development and validation for both K–12 and college-level courses. Currently, he is working with a team of researchers at Southern Methodist University to develop the Measures of Mathematical Reasoning Skills system comprised of two universal screening tools: Tests of Numeric Relational Reasoning (T-NRR) and Tests of Spatial Reasoning (T-SR) for elementary grades.
https://www.smu.edu/simmons/Research/RME/People/Haider
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Muhammad_Haider33

Leah Hollingsworth
Hometown: Leesburg, FL

Leah's undergraduate degree is in finance with a concentration in risk management and insurance. After graduation, she worked for a healthcare consulting firm as an analyst before pursuing her Master's degree in mathematics. After earning her Master's, she taught for 3 years at a technical college. She taught Beginning and Intermediate Algebra, College Algebra, and Quantitative Reasoning. She also served as the lead instructor for Beginning Algebra. In her current position as a Teaching Faculty member at FSU, she serves as the College Algebra Course Coordinator.
https://www.math.fsu.edu/~hollings/