

Math House Application

November 22, 2018

1 Requirements

1. Academic/Educational connection to college

Math house is a house that is committed to furthering of mathematics at Gettysburg college and building community in this particular major and with other majors.

2. Interested and engaged student group

1. Matthew Torrence
2. Peter Francis
3. Katie Cona
4. Sophia Howie
5. Emily Kilcullen
6. Hoang Just
7. Haesoo Park
8. Hannah Wevodau
9. Kayl Murdough
10. Chris Jack
11. Holly White
12. Ben Nagle
13. Nicole Carach
14. Jacob Morris
15. Carmelissa Norbrun
16. Mitchel Fenton
17. Duc Phan
18. Megan Cushing
19. Declan Cronin

3. House Leader who is dedicated to academic mission

- Matthew Torrence

4. House Mentor who is invested in developing a new college house

- Prof. Benjamin Kennedy, Chairperson/Associate Professor

5. Unique contribution to the college campus

- See enclosed letter from Prof. Bajnok.

2 Application Questions

1. Why are you interested in developing a new college house?
 - We're excited by the prospect of having a residential community based upon mathematics, and the foundations of friendships that mathematics has provided for us and will continue to provide. We've seen the way that math classes foster a feeling of friendship and teamwork, and would like to extend that feeling beyond the bounds of Glatfelter, and into our home. It is easy for math students to form close bonds quickly because of the time which is spent and the amount of group work in math classes, as well as the common love of mathematics which these students share. Our goal with math house is to build a community which will reside both in the halls of the house and in the halls of Glatfelter, encouraging academic excellence and embodying the meaning of "Gettysburg Great" in relationships and academics.
2. What ideas do you have for programming and recruiting new members?
 - We would like to encourage Gettysburg College's involvement in mathematics, so we would like to sponsor math competitions. In doing this, we will encourage students to not be scared by the idea of mathematics, but to challenge themselves and improve their logical reasoning. During this event, we would invite groups from every corner of the college, even some who might not have much exposure to mathematics. Along with this, we would like to provide events for the community of Gettysburg College such as math movie nights and board game nights, all of which would be open to the entirety of the College community.
3. Please explain the academic connections this College House will bring to the overall College House Program.
 - Math house would provide the college house program with a connection to mathematics which has never been offered before. Math is treated as an uncomfortable and difficult subject by many, but we want to explain that mathematics is a valuable subject which many can accomplish and appreciate if they are simply given the chance. We would like to bring together the math department in a physical house as to normalize the subject and encourage people to be involved in the department because of its value for every type of mind.
4. How will the house contribute to the college community in a unique and different way?
 - Although there is already a STEM house, all mathematicians know how different mathematics is from science, technology, and engineering. Math is the art of the sciences, drawing creative thinkers with a passion for logical thinking to work through complex and abstract concepts which allow the world to be better understood. Math house is a group of unique people, and the house would be no different. Math house will be passionate about mathematics, its value, and being involved in the college house community as a different type of thought.
5. How is having a physical house an integral part of this community?
 - Although the math department has Glatfelter to call home, it is difficult to build friendships and interact outside of an academic setting when you are restricted to the hall of an academic building. Math house would give the math department especially a place to grow closer through events and daily life in a residential setting.