DRP Guidelines

1 Choosing a Topic

A good DRP topic is something that is not covered in a typical undergraduate class. This topic should be chosen by the student with guidance from the mentor. Students should have some idea of what they are interested in, and mentors can help narrow things down to what might be feasible to learn in a quarter.

2 Guidelines

2.1 For Students

Students are expected to meet with their mentors once per week for about an hour. Between meetings they should spend 4-5 hours on DRP-related work. At the end of the quarter they are expected to give a 15 minute talk.

Once a student begins a quarter of DRP, they are expected to complete the entire quarter. Students who drop early, without first obtaining permission from their mentor, will not be allowed to enroll in the program again.

2.2 For Mentors

Mentors are expected to meet with their students once per week for about an hour. It’s important that you let me know as soon as possible about any issues that arise. These issues might include a student repeatedly not preparing for meetings or deciding to leave the program. If a student misses two meetings in a row without forewarning, please email me. Mentors are required to attend the talks at the end of the quarter.

3 Talks

At the end of the quarter, each student will give a 15 minute talk about something they learned. The talk does not need to (and indeed should not) cover everything the student learned during that time. For the sake of the audience, it’s best to do an overview with worked examples, or pick one thing to describe in detail, such as the proof of some theorem.

One of the goals of DRP is for students to get practice communicating mathematics, so the talks are just as important as the math that they learn. Students are encouraged to give practice talks to their mentors. The talks will be held either the last week of classes, or the week before. Dinner will be provided.

4 Books

Up to $50 will be reimbursed for the purchase of a book for the student. Mentors should purchase books, and then send the receipts to me. All reimbursements will be processed at the end of the quarter.