WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

The Department of Mathematics at Boston College seeks to advance mathematics through a commitment to excellence in research, teaching and service to the community. The faculty has a strong research reputation, with highly regarded research groups in the areas of Algebraic Geometry, Dynamics, Geometry, Number Theory, Representation Theory and Topology.

The department’s Ph.D. program was launched in 2010 and now supports 25 to 30 graduate students, attracting doctoral students from top programs both nationally and internationally. Service contributions include extensive work with pre-collegiate math teachers, involvement with mathematics policy questions at the state and national levels and support for scholarship in mathematics through the organization of international scholarly meetings and the editing of high-quality journals.

As you explore Boston College, you will no doubt be impressed by the strength of our graduate programs and the depth of the resources we offer to support outstanding graduate study.

On campus, one-third of all students are graduate students; they are a vital part of the intellectual life of the university. Graduate students across all Boston College programs contribute to and benefit from the charism of a Jesuit university, combining a zest for academic achievement with a climate that fosters personal growth and a caring concern for the individual.

Our location in Boston—a world-renowned center for mathematics—also provides a vibrant intellectual climate in which our graduate students thrive.

We invite your questions and encourage you to find out more about our department at bc.edu/math and to visit our campus.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Ph.D. Program

The Department of Mathematics at Boston College offers a selective and focused doctoral program for talented students specializing in two broad areas of research:

Dynamics/Geometry/Topology

- Three-dimensional manifolds and their geometry
- Heegaard-Floer and Khovanov homology
- Hyperbolic geometry
- Kleinian groups
- Knot theory
- Dynamical systems
- Geometry of moduli spaces
Number Theory/Algebraic Geometry/Representation Theory
- Automorphic forms
- Birational Geometry
- Cohomology of arithmetic groups
- Geometric invariant theory
- Geometry of Shimura varieties
- Local Langlands correspondence
- Logarithmic geometry
- Multiple Dirichlet series
- Representation theory
- Spectral geometry

Requirements

Residency
A student must be in residence in the Department of Mathematics at Boston College for at least two consecutive semesters of one academic year with full-time (two courses per semester) registration.

Coursework
Students must complete at least 50 credit hours at the graduate level, including the first-year courses in Algebra, Geometry/Topology, Real and Complex Analysis, and second-year courses such as Number Theory, Representation Theory, Geometry or Topology. Very well-prepared students may be allowed to skip some or all of the first-year graduate courses and proceed directly to advanced study.

Qualifying Examination
After the first year, students take two of the three qualifying exams in Real and Complex Analysis, Algebra and Topology. Well-prepared students may take these exams earlier, upon consultation with the assistant chair of graduate programs.

Language Examination
This exam consists of translating mathematics from French or German into English.

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination
During the third year, the student requests that a faculty member serve as his/her research advisor. Upon agreement of the faculty member, the student forms a comprehensive examination committee, consisting of the research advisor and at least two other faculty members. The doctoral comprehensive exam consists of a research topic and one secondary topic, chosen by the student in consultation with the comprehensive examination committee. Typically, these are based on topics courses or independent study completed by the student in the second and third years.

Teaching
In addition to their responsibilities as teaching assistants and teaching fellows, students participate in the Teaching Seminar during their first two years.

Dissertation
Upon satisfactory performance in exams, the student is admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. and begins research for the doctoral dissertation. The dissertation must consist of original scholarly work. The doctoral committee reads and evaluates the completed dissertation and conducts an oral examination at which the dissertation is defended in a public meeting.

Plan of Study
The typical schedule for a first-year Ph.D. student is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real Analysis</td>
<td>Complex Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>Algebra II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geometry-Topology I</td>
<td>Geometry-Topology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Seminar</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
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</tbody>
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Exceptionally well-prepared students may proceed directly to advanced study.
AVNER ASH
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University
Number Theory

JOHN BALDWIN
Professor
Ph.D., Columbia University
Low-dimensional Geometry and Topology

JULIANA BELDING
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., University of Maryland
Mathematics Teaching and Learning
Teacher Education

IAN BIRINGER
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago
Low-dimensional Geometry and Topology

MARTIN BRIDGEMAN
Professor
Ph.D., Princeton University
Hyperbolic Geometry
Teichmüller Theory

DANIEL W. CHAMBERS
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Maryland
Probability
Stochastic Processes
Statistics

DAWEI CHEN
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University
Algebraic Geometry

QILE CHEN
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Brown University
Algebraic Geometry

CHI-KEUNG CHEUNG
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Complex Differential Geometry
Several Complex Variables

MAKSYM FEDORCHUK
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University
Algebraic Geometry

SOLOMON FRIEDBERG
James P. Mcintyre Professor of Mathematics
Ph.D., University of Chicago
Number Theory
Representation Theory

ELLEN JULIA GOLDFEIN
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Tufts University
Mathematics Teaching and Learning
Teacher Education

JOSHUA GREENE
Professor
Ph.D., Princeton University
Low-dimensional Topology

ELISENDA GRIGSBY
Professor
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Geometry
Topology
Machine Learning

ROBERT H. GROSS
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Algebra
Number Theory
History of Mathematics

BENJAMIN HOWARD
Professor
Ph.D., Stanford University
Number Theory
Arithmetic Geometry

XIN JIN
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

DUBI KELMER
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Tel Aviv University
Number Theory
Spectral Geometry
Dynamical Systems

BRIAN LEHMAN
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Algebraic Geometry

SPENCER LESLIE
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Boston College
Number Theory
Representation Theory

TAO LI
Professor
Ph.D., California Institute of Technology
Geometry
Topology
Knot Theory

KATHRYN LINDSEY
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Cornell University
Dynamical Systems
Mathematics of Machine Learning

KEERTHI MADAPU PERA
Associate Professor
Ph.D., The University of Chicago
Number Theory

ROBERT MEYERHOFF
Professor
Ph.D., Princeton University
Geometry
Topology

RENA TO MIROLO
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University
Dynamical Systems

MARK REEDER
Professor
Ph.D., The Ohio State University
Lie Groups
Representation Theory

DAVID TREUMANN
Professor
Ph.D., Princeton University
Algebraic Geometry
Representation Theory

ERIKA WARD
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., University of Kansas
Mathematics Teaching and Learning
Teacher Education

JAMISON WOLF
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Tufts University
Mathematics Teaching and Learning
Teacher Education

LIYANG ZHANG
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Yale University
Mathematics Teaching and Learning
Teacher Education
SELECTED FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


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Ian Biringer, Ranks of mapping tori via the curve complex (with J. Souto), *Journal fur die reine und angewandte Mathematik*, 748, 153-172 (2015).

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Dawei Chen, Masur-Veech volumes and intersection theory on moduli spaces of Abelian differentials (with M. Möller, A. Sauvaget and D. Zagier), *Inventiones mathematicae*, 222(1), 283-373 (2020).

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Elisenda Grigsby, On the colored Jones polynomial, sutured Floer homology, and knot Floer homology (with S. Wehrli), *Advances in Mathematics*, 223(6), 2114-2165 (2010).


Xin Jin, Representing the big tilting sheaves as holomorphic Morse branes, Advances in Mathematics, 345, 845-860 (2019).


Kathryn Lindsey, The shape of Thurston’s Master Teapot (with H. Bray, D. Davis and C. Wu), Advances in Mathematics, 377, 107481 (2021).

Kathryn Lindsey, Horocycle flow orbits and lattice surface characterizations (with J. Chaika), Ergodic Theory and Dynamical Systems, 39(6), 1441-1461 (2019).


Renato Mirollo, Dynamics of the Kuramoto-Sakaguchi oscillator network with asymmetric order parameter (with B. Chen and J. Engelbrecht), Chaos (Editor’s Pick), 29, 013126 (2019).


David Treumann, A categorification of Morelli’s Theorem (with B. Fang, C.-C.M. Liu and E. Zaslow), Inventiones mathematicae, 186(1), 79-114 (2011).
Launched in 2010, the Boston College Ph.D. program has already established itself both national and internationally. In the *Shanghai Ranking*, the Boston College Department of Mathematics’ world ranking is in the 76-100 group. Among U.S. private universities, the department is ranked joint 13th. In the research quality category, measuring publications in top journals, the department is ranked 41st worldwide and 11th among U.S. private universities.

In the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings of U.S. graduate schools in mathematics, Boston College is ranked 59th; in the area of algebra/number theory/algebraic geometry, it is ranked 20th.

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**Recent Placements**

The Department of Mathematics takes an active role in helping to place its students in fulfilling academic and non-academic positions. Our students’ postdoc and other academic and private sector placements have included:

- Boston College
- Columbia University
- CUNY–Baruch College
- Duke University
- Facebook
- Fudan University (China)
- Georgia Tech
- Harvard University
- Lebanon Valley College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Michigan State University
- New Mexico Tech
- Penn State
- Reprak
- Sidewalk Labs
- Swarthmore College
- Technion Israel Institute of Technology (Israel)
- Tel Aviv University (Israel)
- Tsinghua University (China)
- University of California, Davis
- University of Cambridge (UK)
- University of Georgia
- University of Luxembourg
- University of Michigan
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oregon
- University of Paris-Jussieu (France)
- University of Southern California
- University of Sydney (Australia)
- Weizmann Institute (Israel)
MORRISSEY COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The oldest and largest of the University’s eight schools and colleges, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, leading to the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts and Master of Science. In addition, numerous dual-degree options are offered in cooperation with the Carroll School of Management, the Boston College Law School, the Lynch School of Education and Human Development and the School of Social Work.

With approximately 800 graduate students and nearly 500 full-time faculty, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences is small enough to know you as a person, but large enough to serve you and prepare you for a rewarding life and satisfying career.

Academic Resources

LECTURE SERIES AND SEMINARS
The Department of Mathematics hosts an annual Distinguished Lecturer series. The Distinguished Lecturer gives three lectures, and ample time is incorporated into the schedule to allow for interaction with students. Previous Distinguished Lecturers have included: John Conway, Ravi Vakil, Benson Farb, Peter Sarnak, Robert Ghrist, Bernd Sturmfels, Richard Evan Schwartz, Jordan Ellenberg, Amie Wilkinson, Brendan Hassett, Akshay Venkatesh and Cameron Gordon.

Boston College runs a Number Theory seminar jointly with MIT (alternating between the two schools) in which outstanding researchers from all over the country present their work in a wide range of areas of Number Theory. We also have three active research seminars in Dynamics, Geometry/Topology and Algebraic Geometry/Number Theory/Representation Theory.

TEACHING SEMINAR
Excellence in teaching is an important part of the Boston College tradition. The Department of Mathematics runs a teaching seminar in which faculty and graduate students discuss issues related to the teaching and learning of mathematics.

ANTI-RACISM SEMINAR
Members of the mathematics community at Boston College recognize that there is much to be done in moving toward inclusivity for people of color in our discipline. The Department of Mathematics hosts a regular Anti-Racism Seminar, organized by the Mathematics Anti-Racism Committee (Math ARC), a group of undergraduates, graduate students and faculty. We invite all new and current mathematicians to join us in this important work.

DEPARTMENT SOCIAL EVENTS
The Department of Mathematics looks for opportunities to enhance the interaction between faculty and graduate students: through lunch at orientation, cookies and tea after the Teaching Seminar, the annual teaching assistant appreciation luncheon, the beginning-of-term brunch and other activities.

BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM
The Boston Area Consortium allows graduate students to cross-register for courses at Boston University, Brandeis University and Tufts University.

BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARIES
The University is home to eight libraries, containing nearly 3 million volumes; more than 700 manuscript collections, including music, photos, art and artifacts; 625,000 e-books; and more than 600 electronic databases. O’Neill Library, Boston College’s main library, offers subject-specialist librarians to help with research, to set up alerts to publications in areas of interest and to answer any research- and library-related questions.

THE BOSTON LIBRARY CONSORTIUM
The Boston Library Consortium allows Boston College students access to millions of volumes and other services at 19 area institutions in addition to the world-class resources available through the Boston College Library System.
Boston College is located on the edge of one of the world’s most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, finance, research and education.

Home to some of New England’s most prestigious cultural landmarks, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Symphony Hall and the Freedom Trail, Boston provides a rich environment for those passionate about art, music and history. For sports fans, Boston hosts a number of the country’s greatest sports teams: the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and, of course, Fenway Park’s beloved Red Sox. Found within a short drive from Boston are some of New England’s best recreational sites, from the excellent skiing in New Hampshire to the pristine beaches of Cape Cod.

Boston also offers a wide range of family friendly attractions, including the Children’s Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo and the Museum of Science. There are roughly 50 universities located in the Boston area, and the large student population adds to the city’s intellectually rich and diverse community. Events, lectures and reading groups hosted by world-renowned scholars abound on area campuses, providing abundant opportunities to meet and network with other graduate students and faculty throughout the Boston area.

The University

Boston College is a Jesuit university with 15,400 students, 882 full-time faculty and more than 188,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1863, the University has known extraordinary growth and change. From its beginnings as a small Jesuit college intended to provide higher education for Boston’s largely immigrant Catholic population, Boston College has grown into a national institution of higher learning that is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation. Boston College is ranked 36th among national universities by U.S. News & World Report.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers more than 4,300 degrees annually in more than 50 fields through its eight schools and colleges. Its faculty members are committed to both teaching and research and have set new marks for research grants in each of the last 10 years. The University is committed to academic excellence. As part of its most recent strategic plan, Boston College is in the process of adding 100 new faculty positions, expanding faculty and graduate research, increasing student financial aid and widening opportunities in key undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University is comprised of the following colleges and schools: Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Woods College of Advancing Studies, Boston College Law School, School of Social Work and School of Theology and Ministry.

General Resources

**HOUSING**

While on-campus housing is not available for graduate students, most choose to live in nearby apartments. The Office of Residential Life maintains an extensive database with available rental listings, roommates and helpful local real estate agents. The best time to look for fall semester housing is June through the end of August. For spring semester housing, the best time to look is late November through the beginning of the second semester. Additionally, some graduate students may live on campus as resident assistants. Interested students should contact the Office of Residential Life.
JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER
One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART
Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the Brighton campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER
Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a “Fall Teaching Orientation” workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

MARGOT CONNELL RECREATION CENTER
The Margot Connell Recreation Center redefines the future of fitness and recreation at Boston College. The 244,000-square-foot, four-story structure offers our community an inspired space to play, pursue sports, gather with friends and work out. This facility includes a fitness center, rock climbing wall, jogging track, aquatics center, wood-floor basketball courts, tennis courts, multi-activity courts, multi-purpose rooms for spin, yoga and fitness classes, and so much more.

BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER
The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals and online databases.
ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Admission Requirements

The application deadline for fall admission is January 20. Please visit bc.edu/mcgs for detailed information on how to apply.

Application requirements include:

- **Application Form:** Submitted online, via the MCGS website.
- **Application Fee:** $75, non-refundable.
- **Abstract of Courses Form:** A concise overview of background and related courses completed in an intended field or proposed area of study.
- **Official Transcripts:** Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferral from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **GRE General Test:** Official score report (optional).
- **GRE Subject Test:** Official score report (optional).
- **Three Letters of Recommendation:** Preferably from undergraduate teachers of mathematics.
- **Statement of Purpose:** A brief (1-2 page) discussion of an applicant’s preparation, motivation and goals for their proposed course of study.
- **Proof of English Proficiency:** (international only) Official TOEFL/IELTS score reports accepted.

Financial Assistance

**DEPARTMENT FUNDING**

All applicants are considered for teaching assistantships. These positions carry a competitive stipend and full-tuition scholarships. In addition, there is the possibility for summer support for research. Continued eligibility for support is contingent upon reasonable progress toward the degree and acceptable performance of teaching assistant/teaching fellowship duties.

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID**

Graduate students can apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. The loans that may be available to graduate students are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan, based on eligibility. If additional funds are needed, student may apply for a Grad Plus Loan. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website at bc.edu/gradaid or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office at 617-352-3300 or 800-294-0294.

**OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects and provides advice in the development of proposals. OSP maintains a reference library of publications from both the public and private sectors listing funding sources for sponsored projects. In the recent past, graduate students have received research support from prominent agencies, corporations and organizations such as the Fulbright Commission, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the American Political Science Association, the American Chemical Society and the American Association of University Women.