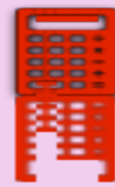


Department of MATH, PHYSICS, ASTRONOMY, & STATISTICS

FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the start of a new semester. We hope that your summer break was restful and restorative. Every new semester brings with it a chance to start with a clean slate and to learn and grow. If you need any assistance with anything, please contact **Department Chair** Dr. Erika Gibb (gibbe@umsl.edu), **Undergraduate Physics Director** Dr. Sonya Bahar (sbahar@umsl.edu), or **Undergraduate Math Director** Dr. David Covert (covertdj@umsl.edu).

WELCOME EVENT (WITH PIZZA!)

We will be hosting a departmental welcome event on **Thursday, September 3rd from 2-3 pm** in **Express Scripts Hall (ESH) #304**. Join us for food and to introduce you to department members as well as learn of various opportunities in our department!



DEPARTMENT COFFEE HOURS

We will be hosting "Coffee Hours" with the department again this semester. These are opportunities for you to relax, to meet faculty members and fellow students, and to enjoy some coffee and snacks. These coffee hours will be held **Thursday, Sept. 17th from 1-3 pm** in **Express Scripts Hall #304** and **Wednesday, October 28th from 1-3 pm** in **Benton #517**.



MATH & PHYSICS TUTORING OPPORTUNITIES

Any student who has completed Calc 2 is welcome to apply for a tutoring position at the Math Academic Center. Bonus points if you have taken any stats classes! If you would like to apply or find out any additional information about this position, please email Al Stanger (stangera@umsl.edu).

If you have completed PHYS 2111 & PHYS 2112 and are interested in a Physics tutoring position, contact Dr. Erika Gibb (gibbe@umsl.edu) for more information.

IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES

Classes Begin: Monday, August 24

No classes Labor Day (Sept 7)

Fall Break: Thurs Oct 8 – Friday 9

No classes Veteran's Day (Nov 11)

Apply to Graduate by: October 1

Spring '27 Open Enrollment: Nov 16

Finals Begin: Monday, Dec 14

Commencement: Saturday, Dec 19

Grades Due: Tuesday, Dec 22

STUDENT WORKER NEEDED FOR RICHARD D. SCHWARZ PLANETARIUM

Interested in Astronomy? If you would like to run Public Observation nights at the Planetarium on campus, contact Dr. Erika Gibb (gibbe@umsl.edu) for more information.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS (FALL 2026):

Math 4160: Complex Analysis 1 **will be taught online (asynchronous) this year**

Math 4750/5750: Math of Neural Networks; Monday 6:55 pm – 8:10 pm (hybrid)

Math 4890/5890-001: Topics in Mathematics (Groups & Representations); MW 5:30 pm – 6:45 pm

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS (FORECASTED FOR SPRING 2027):

Math 4470: Introduction to Statistical Data Analysis for GIS (online; asynchronous)

Math 4890/5890-001: Topics in Mathematics (Commutative Algebra); TR 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Math 4890/5890-002: Topics in Mathematics (Quadratic Forms); TR 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

ANNUAL FALL ANDALAFTE WALK

The annual Andalafte walk will take place on Saturday, September 26th @ 9:00 am. Location and further details will be announced. All students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are welcome!

ACCELERATED MA PROGRAM IN MATHEMATICS

Interested in pursuing a master's degree in Math after graduation? Check out the Accelerated MA

Program in Mathematics. As part of this program, current Math and Data Science majors can earn

dual undergraduate/graduate credit, while completing their undergraduate degree (at no extra cost). For more information, contact Dr. Adrian Clingher at clinghera@umsl.edu or visit <https://umsl.edu/mpas> for more detail.

PUTNAM EXAM

The prestigious Putnam Exam, hosted by the MAA, is a mathematics competition exam for undergraduates. Please contact Dr. Covert as soon as possible (no later than mid-November) to register to take the Putnam exam this fall. You can read more about the Putnam exam and the advantages of taking the exam here: <https://maa.org/putnam/>. This is a great opportunity!

2026 FALL MAKO CONFERENCE

The twentieth MAKO (Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma) Undergraduate Mathematics Research Conference will be held this year on Saturday, November 14th at Missouri State University. All students are welcome to attend regardless of whether you want to present on research or simply learn about others' research. Student speakers give 15–25-minute presentations on their research. Progress or expository talks are also welcome. This is a great opportunity to network and meet other math students. If you are interested in attending, contact Dr. Covert (no later than mid-October) so that we can organize travel and lodging.

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY CLUB:

For more information about the Physics and Astronomy Club, contact Dr. Sonya Bahar (sbahar@umsl.edu).

Find us on TritonConnect!



MATH CLUB:

For more information about Math Club, contact Dr. David Covert (covertdj@umsl.edu).

Find us on TritonConnect!



ADVISING: Every undergraduate major has both a departmental faculty advisor and a campus advisor. You should meet with both types of advisors every semester. You can find more

information about campus-wide advising at <https://www.umsl.edu/mpas/advising.html> and about departmental faculty advising here: <https://www.umsl.edu/advising/index.html>.