

Dear New Student:

In September, Prof. Mark Hansen, Dean of the Division of the Social Sciences, will offer Social Sciences 30100, Mathematics for Social Science, a “math camp” for graduate students. It will be the equivalent of a 10-week course taught in 10 days. It is especially intended for beginning students in both PhD and MA programs. If you take this course, it will show up on your transcript as a fall quarter course, graded Pass/Fail.

The main focus of the course is calculus (differential and integral) and matrix algebra, although it begins with some preliminaries (on sets, numbers, and mathematical proof) and ends with an overview of probability theory as it relates to statistics. It assumes no preparation beyond algebra, but it moves very fast. Most students in the course have had an exposure to differential calculus; few have ever seen more than a smidgen of matrix algebra. That said, almost all of the students who stay with it beyond the first day finish it. The syllabus from last year is attached.

This year’s schedule for math camp is complicated by a late Labor Day and a mandatory meeting for deans. The course will begin on **Wednesday 2 September**, meeting twice daily from 10:30 to 12:00 and from 1:30 to 3:00. Monday the 7th is Labor Day and Thursday and Friday the 10th and 11th are the deans’ meeting, so we will meet only Tuesday the 8th and Wednesday the 9th during the second week of September. The course will finish during the following week, from the 14th to the 18th, so that it will not conflict with orientations and other events for new students.

If you would like to take this (free) course, please email Brett Baker at [bbaker@uchicago.edu](mailto:bbaker@uchicago.edu) to register.

Best,  
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