Welcome

On behalf of the faculty and staff, congratulations on your acceptance to the mathematics secondary education program in the mathematics department of The College of New Jersey!

We believe that the programs in the School of Science offer an excellent combination of academic strength, flexibility, and practical experience. We are looking forward to meeting you and to your becoming a part of our TCNJ community as you help make your future goals a reality. As a new student you will be working with an award-winning faculty ready to inspire and challenge you to do your very best work.

It will be an exciting summer at TCNJ and especially in our own department, and we look forward to meeting you when you arrive on campus in the summer for orientation.

Advising Information

You will be assigned an advisor – a faculty member from our department – who will meet with you regularly throughout your time at TCNJ. You will have opportunities to discuss your course work, independent studies that you might want to pursue, or other academic questions that arise prior to, during, or subsequent to registration each semester. It is important to meet with your faculty advisor each semester to assure that you are on the right track and completing all necessary courses for graduation.

Until your advisor is assigned, please feel free to contact myself or Cathy Liebars, the Associate Chair and Math Education Coordinator should you have any questions at all. You can reach us at 609.771.2269 or at mathstat@tcnj.edu.

Your First Semester

On the back of this letter we have compiled an “Understanding your First Semester Sequence” document that provides a clear and ordered description of the recommended courses for your first semester and detailed information regarding the liberal learning program, including instructions for selecting your First Seminar class (FSP).

As department chair of the department, I am excited to have you join our community.

Tom Hagedorn
Department Chair and Professor
P) 609.771.3053
E) hagedorn@tcnj.edu
http://mathstat.pages.tcnj.edu/
**UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST SEMESTER SEQUENCE**

Every major has a guideline for its first semester students: the First Semester Sequence. Within this sequence of courses, you will see Major Requirements, First Seminar Program (FSP), Liberal Learning courses, and Interdisciplinary Studies requirements. Please reference this First Semester Sequence while completing your online First Semester Worksheet.

## Mathematics Secondary Education

### Major Requirements

All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for Major Requirement courses:

- **MAT 99** – Math Stat Seminar (0 unit)
- **MAT 127** – Calculus A* (1 unit)
- **MAT 200** – Proof Writing through Discrete Math* or **CSC 220** - Computer Science I (1 unit)

*MAT 127 requires a math SAT score of 650 or higher and 4 years of high school math; otherwise you must take **MAT 96** – Precalculus (0 unit)

### First Seminar Program (FSP)

Select six from the following recommended FSPs (1 unit):

- FSP 161 (Any Section)
- FSP 162 (Any Section)
- FSP 163 (Any Section)
- FSP 164 (Any Section)

### Second Language

All Math Majors require 2nd language proficiency at the 103 level.

Information about language placement criteria is available at [http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu](http://wlc.pages.tcnj.edu). No placement exam is needed to take a 101 or 151 level course in a language not previously studied.

### Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Requirement

All incoming freshmen will be pre-registered for:

- **IDS 102** – Information Literacy Proficiency (0 unit)
- **IDS 103** – Community Engaged Learning (0 unit)
- **SRP 99** – Summer Reading Program (0 unit)

### A “full” load is four course units.

**Major Requirements:** The Major Requirements section provides a list of the specific courses you are required to take during your first semester. You will be preregistered for them. To take MAT 127 you must be calculus ready (SAT score ≥ 650) and take 4 years of high school math, or otherwise take MAT 096, Precalculus (0 unit).

**First Seminar Program (FSP):** The FSP is the cornerstone of the Liberal Learning Program. Please select six FSP courses from the categories on the left, and indicate them on your online First Semester Worksheet. View all sections on the First Seminar website: [http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu](http://fsp.pages.tcnj.edu). Please bear in mind that we will only see them in alphabetical order, not your order of reference, and that we will make every effort to enroll you in one of the six.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** IDS 102 is a required, online, non-credit course administered by the library staff satisfying the information literacy component of the Liberal Learning Program. You should meet this proficiency during your first semester. IDS 103 is our way of keeping track of your community engaged learning requirement. As above, you receive no specific academic credit for it, but you should complete it by the end of your first year.

**Second Language or Liberal Learning:** If you place out of a language altogether, then you should take an additional liberal learning course from Literary, Visual, and Performing Arts; World Views and Ways of Knowing; Social Change in Historical Perspectives; and/or any course satisfying at least one civic responsibility category. There are three ways to complete your liberal learning (LL) requirements. Please visit [http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu](http://liberallearning.pages.tcnj.edu) and [http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning](http://firstreg.pages.tcnj.edu/liberal-learning) to learn more about the different Liberal Learning Program paths.

Please make your request on your online First Semester Worksheet as above.

**Summer Reading Program (SRP 99):** This required, non-credited program welcomes you to TCNJ’s intellectual community by asking you to critically read a thought-provoking book and share your insights about the book in small group discussions with your peers led by a facilitator during Welcome Week.