Applying to Graduate School for GT Math Undergrads

Michael T. Lacey

Georgia Institute of Technology

September 5, 2005
Target Audience for These Slides
What Juniors Can Do to Get Ready
Discipline Specific
IGERT & Multidisciplinary Programs

Checklist for Grad School
GRE Test And Scores
Where to Apply
Letter Writers

A Range of Fellowships
The List of Possibilities
What the Support Means
How to Apply for Them
Fulbrights

I am in Grad School. Now What Do I Do?
These Slides are For...

GT Math Majors, from Freshman on up, who are considering continuing their studies. Grad School permits you to:

- Specialize your knowledge
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- Train for a career in Research
- Refine the skills you have gained as a undergraduate
What will Grad School Cost?

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What Can You Do in Grad School?

A range of subjects to study:
Pure or Applied Math (Duh!)
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GT Math majors also go to Law School, other science and engineering disciplines, Dental School, Peace Corp, Divinity School,....
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These are both excellent strategies. Of the two, a bang up job on a Research Project could be more useful to you: You should be going to Grad School to do Research after all.
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Learn TeX. You’ll find it easier to write Math, and organize your knowledge.
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And the discipline has never had as much fascinating research as it
does now.
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Checklist for Grad School

GRE tests, General and Subject Tests
List of places to apply to
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GRE Math Subject Test

A typical problem

\[ \int_{0}^{\infty} e^{-|x|} \, dx \]
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Topics range of undergrad Calculus, Diff Eq, very limited amount of discrete math.
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Discrete Math Majors, who haven’t taken Diff Eq, should review that material!
Some Data on GT Math Grad Admissions

Averages from those students admitted to GT Math, in Spring 2003 recruiting season:
GPA=3.58,  GRE Verbal=565,  GRE Quant=790,
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Many GT Undergrads have a rich experience, with REUs, and Senior Projects. These will help you in the admissions process.
Math Depts are ranked into Groups I to IV
You probably want to apply to mostly Group I Schools
See Lacey’s web pages for a listing of Groups I and Group II
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The Economy, and Current budget problems for State Goverments has effected Grad School budgets at many Universities. The Big State Uni may not be there for you.
Group 1 Institutions

Be realistic about where to apply to. GT has placed students at Princeton, MIT and NYU. Blair Dowling, David Vener, and Yakov Kerzhner. All three were outstanding students. 

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When possible, apply directly to the Math Department—NOT through the Grad School. The Math Department is the unit that cares about who you are. Tell your faculty mentors (Lacey, Wang, REU sponsor, ...) where you are applying to.
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If this is your goal, and you are a freshman, it is not too early to meet Amanda Gable, at the GT Grad School. She can provide help and guidance in preparing for these fellowship applications.
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The Ecole Normale opportunity is new, as of 2002. It might be good to get in before it becomes more well known.
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A more comprehensive and up to date page is likely to be at the GT Grad School
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This support is very useful to you, since it frees a lot of time for research, and provides some extra perks.
How to Apply for the Discipline Specific Fellowships

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Have faculty members go over your statements. These are the types of people who will be on the panels that decide the Fellowships.
More on Discipline Specific Fellowships

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After the Fellowships are announced in late March, request your score from the NSF. This will give you insight into what parts of your application was viewed as lacking.
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✶ Math is an international discipline, and you can do interesting math in a huge variety of countries.
What do I do in Grad School?

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