

“I have a Math Degree, now what?”

Rob Howard
B.S. Mathematics
CSUSM, 1999

I chose to major in Math with the intent of becoming a High School Math instructor. My experiences as a tutor and enjoyment of numbers and problem solving led me to believe that a career as a teacher was the path for me.

It did not take me long to realize, however, that the curriculum for the Math degree would take me far beyond the realm of teaching the solving and graphing of polynomial equations. Challenging courses such as real analysis, combinatorics and abstract algebra – while seemingly “impractical” for everyday life – established a firm foundation for critical thinking and understanding of complex systems. Because of the rigor of such courses, I graduated with a BS in Mathematics well-trained in methods of advanced problem solving, reasoning and data analysis.

Though I chose not to become a classroom teacher, my educational background has been a great asset throughout my professional life. I will share with you how my experiences as a Math major, and the skills I gained from the Bachelor’s program, opened the door to a successful career in the field of statistical programming and data analysis.