

Application for the UTMOST Project

Bonnie Amende
Department of Mathematics
Saint Martin's University
5000 Abbey Way SE
Olympia, WA 98502
bamende@stmartin.edu
(307)438-4550

I am currently an associate professor of mathematics at Saint Martin's University (SMU) where I teach both Linear Algebra and Abstract Algebra. I will be teaching Abstract Algebra (MTH 461) during the fall semester of 2017, and Linear Algebra (MTH 353) during both spring semesters of 2018 and 2019. I am willing to participate as a control section if needed.

I am an algebraist by training and have been teaching Linear Algebra or Abstract Algebra every year since I graduated from the University of Oregon with my doctorate of philosophy in 2005, both as a professor at the University of Central Oklahoma from 2005-2007 and here at SMU from 2007-present, and during the summer of 2004 while I was still a graduate student at the University of Oregon.

I have been using WebAssign, an online homework program, in my Precalculus (MTH 121 and 122), Calculus (MTH 171 and 172), and Vector Calculus (MTH 271) courses since the fall semester of 2011. WebAssign provides students with resources to aid them with their homework and grades answers as right or wrong, but I also require students to turn in their written work from each assignment, which I grade for completion and use of correct methods. I use WebAssign for low risk assessment, assign weekly quizzes based on the homework as medium risk assessment, and give several midterm exams as high risk assessment.

I have no experience with Sage or SageMathCloud in particular, but am open to using other types of mathematical software if it helps to increase student learning and understanding.

Saint Martin's University is a small (around 1450 students), private, 4-year, Catholic, liberal arts university which also has professional schools in engineering, business, education, and counseling psychology. We have a small number of mathematics majors and minors (around 35) in any given year. For this reason, we only offer Abstract Algebra in the fall semester of odd numbered years, and enrollment is generally small, ranging from 4-15 students. On the other hand, Linear Algebra is a required course for both math majors and mechanical engineers; it is offered every spring semester and has a larger population, 25-45 students, in one or two sections.

I am extremely excited about the possibility of participating in the UTMOST project because I am always trying to find ways to improve my teaching strategies and have not yet found a textbook for either course that serves as a suitable bridge between undergraduate and graduate level studies in these areas. Thank you for your consideration.



Saint Martin's
UNIVERSITY

December, 9, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

The Math Department at St. Martin's University is aware of the UTMOST Project that Dr. Bonnie Amende is applying to participate in. We fully support her participation. We will be offering both Linear Algebra during the academic years 2017-18 and 2018-19 and Abstract Algebra during the academic year 2018-19, and we plan to assign Dr. Amende as the professor for those courses.

Joe Mailhot

Chair of Mathematics and Computer Science

Saint Martin's University

5300 Pacific Ave SE

Lacey, WA 98503