ASSESSMENT PLAN

Master of Arts in Mathematics

Department of Mathematics
College of Science and Mathematics
University of South Carolina
March, 2000

I. PROGRAM PURPOSES
The MA in mathematics is designed primarily for students who wish to enter the Ph.D. program in mathematics or who seek a more intensive preparation for teaching in a junior college.

II. INTENDED LEARNING OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES
The MA degree recipient should be able to...

1. **Understand theory**: understand advanced mathematical research appearing in reputable journals in the field.

2. **Written Communication**: explain on paper mathematical results to a mathematically educated audience not expert in the particular specialization.

3. **Oral Communication**: orally present mathematical results to a mathematically educated audience not expert in the particular specialization.

4. **Instruction**: act as an independent instructor for lower level courses in mathematics.

III. PROCEDURES, MEASURES, AND CRITERIA

1. **Theory**: candidates are required to pass the theoretical courses Math 700, Math 701 or Math 706, and Math 703, 704 and obtain a master’s pass on the Admission to Candidacy Examination based on these courses. In addition, the content of the thesis is drawn from several research papers in an area of interest to the student.

2. **Written Communication**: candidates write an expository or original thesis on an advanced topic in mathematics.

3. **Oral Communication**: candidates take the required seminar course Math 790 and are invited to present their thesis in a seminar to which faculty and graduate students are invited.

4. **Instruction**: candidates teach as instructor of record during 2 regular semesters and 2 summer semesters a lower level mathematics course. Candidates will have full responsibility as instructor of record in these courses.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION
The Department of Mathematics will conduct an Exit Survey with each graduating MA student, in which each student will be asked how well he/she is prepared for his/her prospective Ph.D. program or job, as well as comment on the USC graduate program’s strengths and weaknesses. The results are used to help make improvements in the program. First positions of graduates or progress in a doctoral program are kept on file. Each year the Graduate Director will prepare a summary report of assessment data.
V. IMPLEMENTATION

Evaluation results from the Implementation Phase of this Assessment Plan will be featured in the Department's Annual report, the Strategic Plan (including any updates), and at other times deemed appropriate by the Department Chair or other University officials.

VI. FEEDBACK CHANNELS

Assessment results and summaries will be circulated to program faculty at a faculty meeting and at other times as deemed necessary by the Department Chair.

VII. USE OF RESULTS

Use of results for program modification and the subsequent impact of any changes made will be reviewed yearly by the relevant faculty, and included in the Department's annual Report and Strategic Plan (including any updates).