

SPUR 2008

MIT MATHEMATICS SUMMER PROGRAM IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

In the summer of 2008, for the twelfth year, the MIT Math Department will offer its Summer Research Program in Mathematics (SPUR). Up to 10 undergraduates will be supported.

SPUR is open to MIT students who have completed their freshman, sophomore or junior year. Students will be considered relative to their year, and it is not required that a participant be a mathematics major.

DATES: Monday, June 23 to Friday, August 1, 2008

WEB SITE: <http://math.mit.edu/spur>

DETAILS: Students work full time for six weeks on an original research problem. Each undergraduate is paired with a graduate student mentor. Undergraduate and mentor meet together about an hour each weekday. During the first few days, the undergraduate and mentor will identify one or more suitable problems to work on. In the final days of the program, the undergraduate writes a short paper (about 10 pages) describing his or her progress and presents a 20-minute talk to the mentors, to other undergraduates in SPUR, and to a panel of faculty members. If you have further questions, you can write to the director, Professor David Jerison. His e-mail address is the usual @math.mit.edu and only his last name.

SEMINAR: Each week during the program, the entire group of undergraduates and mentors will meet for a seminar and discussion with a faculty member.

QUALIFICATIONS: A lively interest in mathematics and a serious desire to try out and develop one's own research abilities and skill at communication.

SPUR's DEFINITION OF SUCCESS: Significant progress, relative to one's own background and experience, in developing interests, satisfaction, skill, and ideas, rather than getting the final solution to a problem.

APPLICATION: Send to jan@math.mit.edu (Jan Wetzel)

a) as soon as possible, an e-mail that signals your intention to apply

b) by Friday, February 29, a short application posted at our web site.

Alternatively, printed application forms are available in the Undergraduate Math Office, 2-108, and can be submitted there.

The deadline for full consideration is Friday, February 29, and positions will be offered by e-mail starting Sunday, March 16. Late applications will be considered if space is available.

STIPEND: Each undergraduate participant will receive a stipend of at least \$2400 to assist with living expenses.