Policy on Non-Math Faculty Members Serving Thesis Advisors for Math Ph.D. Students
Department of Mathematics
August, 2022

In general, thesis advisors for Ph.D. students of math department (abbreviated below as math Ph.D. students) are math faculty members. In order to maximize the research potential and promote interdisciplinary research, a math Ph.D. student is allowed to have a non-math faculty member (i.e., a UCSD faculty member who is not a ladder faculty member of math department) as their thesis advisor, if the non-math faculty member is eligible to be a Ph.D. thesis advisor and if the thesis work for the student has a sufficient math (including math, statistics, or CSME) component.

For a math Ph.D. student finding a non-math faculty thesis advisor, here are a set of rules:
1. The student must find a ladder faculty member in the math department to serve as a co-advisor, and the co-chair of thesis committee. The co-advisor is responsible to ensure that the student's thesis is consistent with math Ph.D. requirements and standards.
2. At least half of the members of the student's exam committee must be ladder faculty members of math department.
3. In planning to support the Ph.D. student as a graduate student researcher or graduate teaching assistant, a non-math faculty thesis advisor should contact the Mathematics Department to check the need of math TAs in a specific quarter.

Any math Ph.D. student who intends to find a non-math faculty thesis advisor is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Graduate Vice Chair.