

# ***Undergraduate Course Planning***

**Department of Mathematics  
University of California San Diego**

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## **Tools**

- Useful web pages in course planning:
  - (1) [uc San Diego General Catalog for your major's curriculum](#)
  - (2) [uc San Diego General Catalog for department courses pages](#)
  - (3) [Department of Mathematics Planned Course Offerings page](#)
  - (4) [uc San Diego Schedule of Classes for next term \(assuming it is live\) and past 24 months](#)
- [Quarter-by-quarter course planning worksheet](#)
- Next: [How to get to above pages...](#)

## (1) General Catalog: Major

- In a new tab or window go to [catalog.ucsd.edu](http://catalog.ucsd.edu)
- Click “Courses, Curricula, and Faculty”
- Click “M” or scroll down to “Mathematics”
- Click “Undergraduate Program”
- Scroll down to your major’s curriculum
- *At some point you should read all opening content about department’s undergraduate program*

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## Caution

- UC San Diego General Catalog contains official curriculum for each major; *anything else is unofficial*
- Do *not* rely on outdated mathematics department web pages for major curricula
- Do *not* rely on Department of Mathematics Undergraduate Student Handbook dated 2010-2011
  
- Note: A Department advisor can only approve your future request to graduate if all requirements of your major *as stated in General Catalog* in effect when you started at UC San Diego or since then are satisfied.

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## (2) General Catalog: Courses

- In a new tab or window go to [catalog.ucsd.edu](http://catalog.ucsd.edu)
- Click “Courses, Curricula, and Faculty”
- Click “M” or scroll down to “Mathematics”
- Click “Courses”
- Here are course numbers, names, descriptions, and prerequisites for each course offered by Department of Mathematics
- (Use instructions comparable to above for courses from other departments that you plan to take)

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## (3) Mathematics Department Planned Course Offerings

- In a new tab or window go to [math.ucsd.edu](http://math.ucsd.edu)
- Hover pointer over “Resources”
- Click first option, “Planned Course Offerings”
- Default showing is for lower division courses; click “Upper Division” if you want those courses
- Page does not show summer courses to be offered; (go to [summer.ucsd.edu](http://summer.ucsd.edu) for everything with respect to summer offerings)

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## (4) Campus Schedule of Classes

- In a new tab or window go to [students.ucsd.edu](http://students.ucsd.edu)
- In the pull-down menu for Academics, select “Enrolling in Classes”
- Click “Schedule of Classes”
- At Schedule of Classes, you can see days/times classes will be offered in next academic term (if it is live)
- Can also look up data for past 24 months on what classes were offered each term, who taught each, and some enrollment information
- *Caution: Past offerings are no guarantee of future offerings*

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## Putting It All Together (1/3)

- On course planning worksheet, fill in your courses from past/current terms. Then plan for future terms.
- Use your major’s curriculum and Department’s Planned Course Offerings web page to decide what to take and when.
- Strive to stay below your college’s maximum units to degree; college administrations discouraged from letting students exceed maximums

The image shows a 'Quarterly Course Planner' worksheet. At the top, there are fields for 'Name', 'ID', 'Year', 'Sem', and 'Sex'. Below this, the title 'Quarterly Course Planner' is centered. The worksheet is organized into three identical rows, each representing a year. Each row contains three columns for 'Fall Quarter', 'Winter Quarter', and 'Spring Quarter'. Each quarter column has three horizontal lines for course entry. Below each row of quarters is a 'Summer Sessions' section with two horizontal lines. The entire planner is designed for a student to track their course load over a three-year period.

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## Putting It All Together (2/3)

- MATH 109 is many people's first upper division mathematics course. Though offered quarterly, its sections are always in high demand. *Advice: Enroll in 109 as soon as you qualify and at start of your first pass.*
- MATH 109 prerequisite for 100A, 103A, 104A, 111A, 140A, 142A, 153, 154, 180B, 184A
- Recommendation: If you are going to take MATH 180A, take MATH 109 before, not concurrently with, 180A
- Be clear on differences where you have choices:
  - Linear algebra: MATH 102 versus 170A
  - Real analysis: MATH 140A-B versus 142A-B
  - Abstract algebra: MATH 100A-B versus 103A-B
  - MATH 180A (probability) versus MATH 183 (statistics)

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## Putting It All Together (3/3)

- Most upper division mathematics courses *not* offered every quarter
- Some courses not even offered every year
- Past course offerings are no guarantee of future offerings, but look for patterns that *might* prevail in future. Examples:
  - *MATH 100A-B-C only offered in fall-win-spr pattern*
  - *MATH 168A only offered in summer terms for past several years*
  - *MATH 193A-B only offered in summer terms for past several years*
- Once you learn planning process, it's easy to do; run your plan by a department advisor at least annually

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