

MATHEMATICS

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NETMATH

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Recent Changes in NetMath

The campus financial allocations to NetMath have changed. An unfortunate consequence of this change is that CAS-ILE courses are no longer affordable due to their personnel costs. As much as we wish to continue to deliver the novel computer assisted active learning programs that have defined NetMath since 1989, we no longer have the instructional staff to do so. It has taken decades to build the tools we use in CAS-ILE today and it will take considerable effort to rebuild those courses using new software and designs that reflect modern trends while incorporating the important pedagogical core ideas learned from experience. We ask for patience as we pass through this difficult period of change.

The plan for redevelopment is to be done in 3 stages. First, the courses will be built in a traditional lecture-capture format, as NetMath has been using in its upper division courses for several years. This will allow the program to begin reintroducing courses by Summer 2023. The next phase will be in creating automated assessment tools for these courses, as has been done for several of the CAS-ILE courses in recent years. It is hoped that this phase will be completed by Summer 2024 for all courses. The last, and most exciting phase will be the process of creating new homework for these courses, that encourage students to explore and actively learn material using a technological environment.

The following are the affected courses and their current status:

Math 220—Calculus I—the course is currently closed for new enrollments. The redevelopment for this course is to begin in Spring 2023.

Math 231—Calculus II—the course is being recorded this semester and expected to be ready by Summer 2023.

Math 241—Calculus III—the course is being recorded this semester and expected to be ready by Summer 2023.

Math 285/286—Math 286 was discontinued by the Mathematics Department and so will not be redeveloped. Math 285 has already been recorded and will be ready by January 2023. This follows a slightly new syllabus that the department has adopted for the course.

Math 415—The Mathematics Department is discontinuing this course by Spring 2023 and it has been replaced by Math 257. NetMath currently teaches Math 257 in the Summer 8 week session but is not approved to deliver the course in the self-paced format. NetMath is working to create tools to allow Math 257 to be delivered more broadly but it is not clear when approval for this modality may be granted.

Randy McCarthy
Director of NetMath, Fall 2022