Guidelines for DRP mentees

Program Description: The Directed Reading Program (DRP) is an opportunity for Princeton undergraduates to work one-on-one with a graduate student for a semester-long reading project in mathematics.

Expectations:

- Meetings: You are expected to meet with your mentor **at least an hour** each week
- Individual work: you are required to commit **at least 4 hours of work** outside of the meeting each week.
- Presentation: There will be a DRP Symposium at the end of the semester when you'll **give a short (10-15 min) presentation** to the other DRP participants, mentors and organizers

Timeline:

- Application: applications are due **Thursday, September 10th at 11:59pm**.
- Initial pairing: **Monday September 14th.**
- First meeting: The week **September 14th**
- Weekly meetings until the Reading Period at the end of April.
- Presentation: **Date TBD** (we'll email you!)

Tips for a successful reading project

Your first meeting & choosing a topic

- Be flexible: you are just starting to explore math, and while there might be a specific topic you've heard of, be open to learning about completely new things. It could be an opportunity to find a topic that you really like!
- Don't be overly ambitious: while very advanced topics are cool, it's important to have good fundamentals. Trust your mentor when they recommend you to learn something more basic even if it's less flashy.

During the semester

- There are *no stupid questions!* Your mentor is there to support you. Keep in mind that they may sometimes lead you to discover the answer rather than give it to you directly, or maybe even they won't know the answer! There's always more math to learn.
- Ask your mentor for specific recommendations, such as chapters or exercises to read
- We suggest you present exercise solutions to your mentor. It helps you see if you actually understand a topic and it gives your math presentation practice.
    - This might be the first time presenting things at the board, but don't worry! The mentors are there to encourage and help you :) Also, we all know it's harder to think at the board.
- You should drive at least half of each week's meeting. Prepare to ask questions, present exercises or examples.

Symposium presentation

- Ask your mentor for help about deciding the topic of your presentation
- Ask your mentor to give them a practice presentation

- Start preparing early! We suggest at least two to three weeks before the presentation. You can simultaneously read and prepare a presentation!

Frequently Asked Questions

- "I signed up for the DRP but now I am drowning in work, and don't think I will be able to keep it up :(. What should I do?" – **Email your mentor, and the DRP organizers** (for example, Meenakshi at meenakshi@princeton.edu) **letting them know**. It's better to decide to give up on the DRP than to ghost your mentor.

- "I have midterms/a presentation/a super busy week?": It's okay to miss one week. Inform your mentor **in advance**, and just try to keep a constant pace after your busy week.