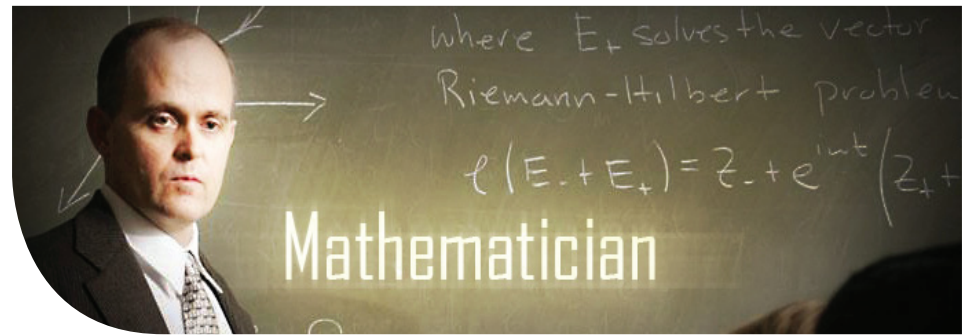


Career Spotlight

Mathematician

Mathematics is one of the oldest and most fundamental sciences. Mathematicians do research in fields such as logic, set theory, abstract algebra, number theory, geometry, topology, dynamical systems, combinatorics, game theory, probability, and statistics. Although math has numerous applications, mathematicians also find math interesting in its own right.



EDUCATION

A Ph.D. in mathematics is usually needed to work as a mathematician, although there are some opportunities for those with a master's degree. There are also more job opportunities for those who have experience in a related field, such as computer science or engineering.

WHEN MATH IS USED

Mathematicians use mathematical theory, computational techniques, algorithms, and the latest computer technology to solve economic, scientific, engineering, and business problems. There are two broad classes of mathematicians: those who work in theoretical mathematics and those who work in applied mathematics (although there's a lot of overlap).

POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Many people are familiar with mathematicians in academia, but mathematicians also work in many other fields, including astronomy and space exploration, climate study, medicine, robotics, animated films, a wide range of businesses and even national security. Many mathematicians work for the Federal Government, with about 80 percent of those working for the U.S. Department of Defense. Other positions within the Federal Government include working for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Other employers include technical consulting services and insurance carriers.

FACTS

The British mathematician Alan Turing is credited with helping to end World War II. Without Turing's help cracking the Enigma code, British and American intelligence would not have been able to capture the German secrets that they did. Churchill even admitted that without Turing's contributions, the war would have dragged on for much longer.

CITATIONS

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos043.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathematician>

<http://www.po28.dial.pipex.com/maths/mathms.htm>

www.ams.org/notices/199806/microsoft.pdf

www.maa.org/pubs/march07web.pdf

MATH REQUIRED

- College Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Calculus I, II, III
- Linear Algebra
- Ordinary Differential Equations
- Real Analysis
- Abstract Algebra
- Theory of Analysis
- Complex Analysis

This is a very basic list; most mathematicians will study all the math they can and will study additional topics depending on their interests.

Low-end Salary: \$55,680/yr

Median Salary: \$101,040/yr

High-end Salary: \$152,140/yr