Outline

- What is the DRP?
- Why do the DRP?
- How does it work?
- Applying
What is the DRP?

The Directed Reading Program (DRP) pairs enthusiastic students with graduate student mentors for an independent reading project in math outside the scope of their current coursework.

- Note: BU does not offer course credit for the DRP.
What is the DRP?

Example: given a fixed integer $n$, can we characterize prime numbers that can be written as $x^2+ny^2$ for some integers $x$ and $y$?
What is the DRP?

Example: applied mathematics, neuroscience, data analysis
What is the DRP?

Example: an introduction to game theory
What is the DRP?

Example: an introduction to computational topology
Why do the DRP?

- Explore math outside of your regular coursework
- Participate in an individual, student-driven project
- Experience what it’s like to be a mathematician
- Work one-on-one with a super cool grad student
Apply for the DRP, get paired with a graduate student mentor

Meet with your mentor and finalize a topic

Study independently and meet weekly with your mentor

Wrap up project and prepare your presentation

Present your project
How does it work?

Choosing a topic with your mentor

- Feel free to propose a topic in the application
- Otherwise, a general interest is enough to find a project
- You’ll be paired with someone who can explore these interests with you
- Narrow it down in the first meeting!
How does it work?

Independent study (4hrs/wk)

- Read a section of the book
- Work through examples or problems as you read
- Prepare questions for your meeting
How does it work?

Weekly meetings with your mentor (1hr/wk)

- Discuss the readings
  - Student-led: explain what you’ve learned to your mentor
  - Ask questions
  - Work through problems with your mentor
- Set expectations for next week
How does it work?

Final presentations

- 10 minute presentations about your project in at the end of the semester
- Audience is mostly undergraduate math/stats students, but anyone can attend
- food!
How does it work?

Advice

● It’s okay to be wrong or not understand something!
● Do the reading you agreed to do
● Show up!
● Ask your mentor questions about math classes, grad school, summer, other opportunities
Application

- Coursework
- Topics of interest
- Why do you want to do the DRP? (write a paragraph!)
- DEADLINE: Tuesday September 15th, 11:59 p.m. EST

http://www.bu.edu/math/bu-directed-reading-program/