

June 14, 2019

Dear PhD Student:

On behalf of the Economics Department at Binghamton University, I want to tell you again how glad we are that you have chosen Binghamton to pursue your PhD in Economics. Our program is both challenging and rewarding and will provide the foundation for a fulfilling career.

A strong foundation in mathematical tools is essential for successful graduate study in economics. That foundation should include, at a minimum, the equivalent of a basic undergraduate course in statistics, the standard three-semester undergraduate sequence in calculus, and a semester of linear algebra. To further prepare you for the mathematical challenges you will face as you pursue your degree, we offer a course beginning in mid-August that covers the essentials in calculus and linear algebra for entering students whose background is lacking in them, or who feel they could benefit from a review of this material even if they have already studied it. This course – ECON 603, Advanced Mathematical Analysis for Economists (“Math Boot Camp”) – is offered *free of charge*. It begins before the semester:

Tuesday, August 6 – Saturday, August 10;  
Monday, August 12 – Saturday, August 17; and  
Monday, August 19.

All classes will meet 8:30-11:00 AM in a Fine Arts building classroom FA 242. The class will continue to meet each Friday during the fall semester. These Friday classes will continue the work begun in “Boot Camp” and will not review material covered earlier.

We strongly encourage every student to take the math boot camp! There is ample evidence that the camp helps you be successful in the program. I have attached a self-diagnostic math test and last year’s syllabus. Please take the test to judge your confidence and comfort-level in solving these problems. If you feel less than confident about answering these problems, you absolutely should take this course.

Attending the Math Boot Camp will give you the opportunity to get acquainted with the Binghamton campus, the neighboring community, and your classmates (most of whom will attend the camp!) before classes start. Regardless of whether you decide to attend the Math Boot Camp, I recommend invest time understanding the material and recommended textbooks for this course as detailed in the syllabus.

Best wishes for a relaxing and productive summer. All of us in the department are looking forward to welcoming you in August.

Sincerely,



Prof. Andreas Pape, Director of Graduate Studies  
Department of Economics