

# Math Department Self-Study

## Students

How well does our program work for different types of students?

How well does our program work at different grade levels?

Do we have a problem with hyper-acceleration?

## Curriculum

### Breadth

Are there topics / areas we are missing?

Are there topics / areas we over-emphasize?

### Depth

Are there topics / areas we need to do more with?

### Choice

Do our students have enough choices in their junior and senior year?

### Coherence

Is our program coherent?

Should some topics be taught earlier or later?

Are topics repeated in different courses in a thoughtful way or by accident?

## **Archives**

Is our program readily available to a new teacher?

Would we lose a lot if someone left?

## **Pedagogy**

How rich is our repertoire of teaching techniques?

Do we sufficiently emphasize the solving of non-routine problems?

## **Tools**

Do we make optimal use of technology?

Do we make optimal use of manipulatives?

Do we make optimal use of group work?

Do we make optimal use of class discussion?

## **Balance**

Skills vs. concepts

Access vs. challenge

Teacher-centered vs. student-centered

## **Assessment**

Do we need to broaden our palette of assessment vehicles?

Do we use enough at-home assignments for assessment?

Do we make optimal use of test corrections?

## **The School Context**

What parts of school culture support us moving forward?

What parts of school culture hold us back?

What about the schedule?

What about hiring?

## **Who Teaches What**

Are we happy with the division of labor? (required vs. advanced classes)

Are we happy with the specialist / generalist balance in our department? Should teachers, over time, branch out to new courses?

Do teachers have ownership / grasp of the whole program, or just “their” courses?

## **Collaboration**

Do we have a departmental philosophy? (Do we need one?)

Are we happy with the balance of collaboration vs. autonomy in the department?

Would more collaboration lead to more professional growth (in math and/or pedagogy)?

Would more collaboration improve morale and esprit de corps?

Would more collaboration better help integrate new teachers into the department?

Would more collaboration help address the issues raised in this survey?

## **Other**

Prioritizing and developing a step-by-step plan — what should be our next steps?  
(fast is slow, and slow is fast!)

What is missing from this worksheet?