



MATH PROGRAM Adds Up FOR FATHER AND SON

Dennis and Joe Early

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“I forgot a few things in 30 years!”

—Dennis Early

During the summer months, it’s not unusual to find Joe Early and his dad Dennis waterskiing, shooting hoops or playing tennis together. But doing homework?

Joe, a math teacher at Osceola High School, was ready to begin working on his master’s degree. His colleagues suggested the Master of Science in Education (MSE) in Secondary Education - Math program at UW-River Falls. The condensed-format summer classes and easy-to-follow program structure appealed to Joe. When he heard about students traveling from Madison and Whitewater to participate, he “knew it had to be

good.” And, the opportunity to take a course with his father made it even better.

Coincidentally, Dennis Early, a math instructor at Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College in New Richmond, needed continuing education credits. Dennis naturally thought of UW-River Falls, where he’d earned his undergraduate degree. Knowing his son was about to begin a master’s program, he was excited at the chance to be in the same class. They were used to doing lots of different things together, why not a math class?

The two enrolled in Statistics for Educators, one of six, four-credit

The MSE in Secondary Education - Math

program is a unique summer opportunity for both personal and professional development. It's designed for middle and high school math educators as well as community college and technical school math educators. You can complete the program in as few as three summers.

- Condensed format summer courses
- Small class sizes
- In-depth study of important math topics
- Practical classroom applications, interdisciplinary and cooperative approaches
- Experienced faculty who are committed to teaching

math courses offered as part of the MSE-Math degree. Joe was earning credits toward his degree and Dennis was earning credits for professional development.

While neither is currently teaching statistics, both found the course valuable professionally and personally. They have each used software, teaching techniques and math applications from the course in their own classrooms. And both have a renewed energy for the subject matter as well as their work.

“Remembering what it is like to sit in a classroom is very helpful,” commented Joe. “Kids do get confused and you have to try other

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things to reach them,” he said. Joe hadn't worked with statistics since college and found the course to be a nice refresher and confidence builder. He also enjoyed meeting and learning from fellow math instructors.

“It was good to get in touch with math at a higher level,” said Dennis. “I forgot a few things in 30 years!” He most enjoyed being around “young people” and was impressed by the math and teaching

abilities of his classmates. He was also impressed with instructor Dr. Robert Coffman. “He related to everyone in the class,” said Dennis. “I wasn't just on the sidelines.”

For Dennis, being in class with his son was the culmination of a role reversal. “I think it's come full circle,” he said, explaining how Joe's abilities in basketball, waterskiing and tennis have surpassed his own. “And now he's helping me with my homework!”

UWRF Courses on the Web

A variety of courses offered by UW-River Falls are just a click away. Use this guide to find what you are seeking on the Web.

<http://www.uwrf.edu/educator>

- Use **Class Schedule Lookup** to view a list of courses or find a particular one. Search by subject, keyword, or catalog number.
- Find a degree or certificate program at **Graduate Studies>Programs** and get class descriptions and schedules when you click on the required courses listed.
- See featured courses and events for each term at **Continuing Education**.
- Receive email alerts each month on courses and workshops designed for educators by subscribing to the Teachers Listserv, teachers@uwrf.edu
- Ask for help. Customer service staff is available by e-mail, outreach@uwrf.edu, or by phone, (715) 425-3256 or (800) 228-5607 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

You will need to be admitted to UW-River Falls before you can register for credit classes. Go to **Graduate Studies>How To Apply** for admission instructions and forms.