Senior Conference is the capstone course in the mathematics major, a required semester-long course to be taken during the senior year. The course takes many different forms – depending on who is coordinating it, who is taking it, and when it is being offered – but invariably it is conducted like a research seminar in which participants take turns presenting a variety of topics, with active engagement of the entire audience. Some common goals, shared by all incarnations of the course, are to:

- Develop skills to learn mathematics in small groups and independently.
- Learn how to effectively communicate mathematics in oral and written forms.
- Most of all, have fun engaging with some very cool mathematics!

Sometimes the course may focus on a particular topic of interest – e.g. harmonic analysis, dynamical systems, or the mathematics of voting – and the participants will spend their time reading, presenting and writing about material on this topic.

On other occasions, the course may cover a more diverse range of topics, with time spent reading, discussing and presenting a wide variety of short papers or videos in pure and applied mathematics, chosen by the participants and/or suggested by the coordinating professor.

Some sections of the course may include a praxis component with an eye toward K12 education. Others may include some training in computer programming, technical typesetting, and internet research. Few will have any exams or problem sets like those required in other courses!

In general, small groups of participants will be in charge of presenting during each class session, while all participants will be required to familiarize themselves with the material in order to effectively engage in class discussions facilitated by the presenters. The presenters may then be asked to prepare a written group “presenters report”, while the other participants may be asked to submit “listener reports”. Some course sections may also require a final paper or project.

In any form, this course is ALWAYS a lot of fun!