

MATH 5199 Independent Study

The University of Texas at Tyler, Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Ivan Ramirez-Zuniga

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Meeting Time and Place: The student and instructor will meet regularly throughout the semester at mutually agreed-upon times. Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.

Course Description

MATH 5199 is an independent study course devoted to the completion of the student's master's thesis. The primary purpose of the course is to provide faculty supervision as the student completes the writing, revision, submission, and defense of the thesis. The work completed during the semester will build upon research previously conducted by the student and will focus primarily on preparing the thesis for final approval and successful defense.

Course Objective

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will have completed and successfully defended the master's thesis.

Course Activities

Course activities will consist of regular meetings with the advisor and the work necessary to complete, revise, prepare, and defend the master's thesis. There are no regular lectures, examinations, quizzes, homework assignments, or separate projects.

Student Responsibilities

The student is expected to maintain steady progress throughout the semester, attend scheduled meetings, complete agreed-upon revisions in a timely manner, communicate regularly with the advisor, and meet all departmental and University deadlines associated with the thesis and graduation.

Assessment and Grading

The course grade is based entirely on successful completion of the master's thesis process. This requires completion of an acceptable thesis, successful oral defense before the thesis committee, and submission of the final thesis in accordance with departmental and University requirements.

Thesis Timeline

The student and advisor will maintain a working timeline for completion of the thesis. Major milestones include

- completion and revision of the full thesis draft;
- distribution of the thesis to the committee (**October 23, 2026**);
- preparation and completion of the oral defense (**1st Week of November, 2026**);
- submission of the final approved thesis.

Important Dates:

- **November 9, 2026:** Last day to schedule the thesis defense for Fall graduation.
- **November 20, 2026:** Last day to submit the completed thesis.

The student should plan to complete all intermediate steps sufficiently in advance of these deadlines to allow time for advisor and committee review, revision, and final preparation.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence tools may be used for limited support such as brainstorming, obtaining general explanations, or reviewing programming syntax. However, **AI tools may not be used to generate text for the thesis**. All written material submitted as part of the thesis must be written by the student and must reflect the student's own understanding, reasoning, and scholarly work.

AI-generated mathematical arguments, references, computational results, or code must not be incorporated into the thesis without careful verification and appropriate acknowledgment when required. The student is responsible for the accuracy and integrity of all material appearing in the thesis and must be able to explain and defend every part of the submitted work.

Academic Integrity

The thesis must represent the student's own scholarly work. All ideas, results, text, figures, data, code, or other material obtained from external sources must be acknowledged appropriately. Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification of results, or other violations of academic integrity are not acceptable and will be handled according to University policies.

Accessibility

The Department of Mathematics at UT Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) as early as possible in the semester. Additional information is available at UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resources.

University Policies

Students are responsible for following all applicable University policies, including policies concerning academic integrity, student rights and responsibilities, accessibility, student absences, and standards of academic conduct. Current University syllabus policies may be found at [UT Tyler Syllabus Information](#).