

Teaching Statement

CRISTIAN RIOS

I started teaching mathematics while still working on my undergraduate degree. This was a very enriching opportunity since I was able to relate to the difficulties students experience in learning this discipline. At the UNL in Santa Fe, at the University of Minnesota, and more recently at McMaster University, I have taught a broad spectrum of undergraduate mathematics, aimed at degrees in mathematics, engineering, chemistry, computer science, liberal arts, biology and economics among others. Teaching various student audiences taught me the necessity to adapt my teaching style and expectations to the varying needs of my students.

At the beginning of the academic year 2000–2001, at the University of Minnesota, I was a Resource Teaching Assistant. In this leadership position, I worked on improving and developing the teaching skills of newcomers to the graduate school. By coordinating teaching sessions and sharing my experiences, I informed the candidates of their duties and responsibilities as future teaching assistants.

In my last year as a Teaching Assistant at the graduate school, I acted as the Assignments and Computer Consultant for the course The Mathematics of Industrial Problems. I was in charge of guiding students in the realization and debugging of their computer assignments, which involved the implementation of numerical methods to approximate solutions of mathematical models with industrial applications. This course is one of the first of its kind; it set a precedent to establish a doctoral degree in Industrial Mathematics at the University of Minnesota, and it has inspired many similar courses and programs around North America.

Teaching is an important part of my professional life, and as with everything I do, I submit it to the highest standards.

Cristian Rios

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