

January 31, 2018

Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
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Dear Chair, Undergraduate Advisor, or Colleague:

I am writing to tell you about an opportunity for your students to study **discrete mathematics** at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), leading to a PhD. I hope you will pass on the enclosed information to your students who might potentially be interested.

The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at VCU currently has *nine* tenured or tenure-track faculty members whose primary area of research is in an area of discrete mathematics, one of our two largest research groups, and strengths of our department. In addition there are three tenured or tenure-track faculty members in Operations Research, whose research is also in areas of discrete mathematics, with whom we collaborate in our research and in the joint management of our Ph.D. program. (And conveniently the Operations Research faculty share the floor of our building with us).

Together with the Department of Statistics and Operations Research, we offer an innovative, interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in *Systems Modeling and Analysis*. The Doctor of Philosophy in Systems Modeling and Analysis (SYSM) focuses on the development of the mathematical and computational skills used to model and analyze real-world systems. Our SYSM Ph.D. program has four *research areas* in which any student can pursue research. One of these research areas is **discrete mathematics**.

VCU is a diverse, inclusive campus, a positive, and supportive learning environment, and the city we are located in, Richmond, Virginia, is a vibrant urban setting for this university. We have both beautiful well-preserved buildings, huge urban parks, class-5 rapids for kayaking on the river running only a quarter-mile from campus, together with an amazing arts and music scene. We are proud of our campus, our city—and of what we offer students. And we are eager to see them succeed.

We hope you will pass this information of to any of your students who might be interested in continuing their studies in discrete mathematics. We offer competitive assistantships and begin reviewing applications in February. Further information can also be found at the VCU SYSM website: <https://sysm.vcu.edu>.

I am the VCU SYSM Discrete Coordinator. Please feel free to pass my contact information on to your students. I would be happy to personally address any questions they might have.

Sincerely yours,



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