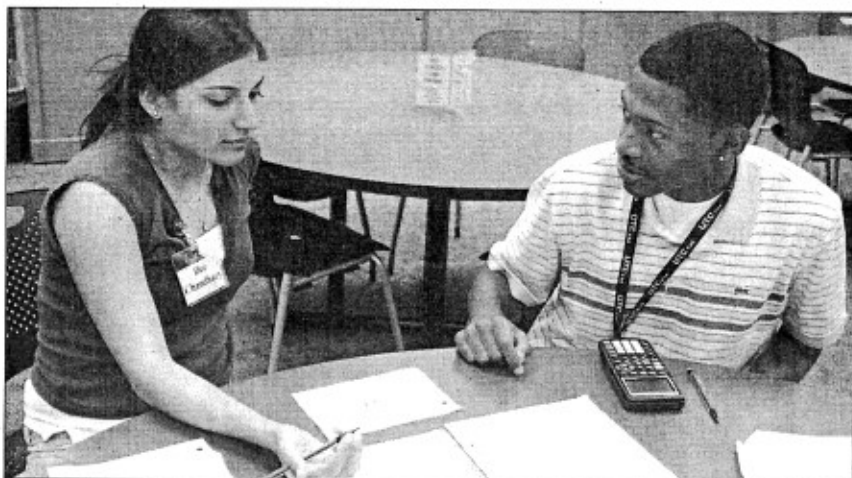


# Summer course refreshes math students



Sheryl Moglotin

**I know my calculus:** Math lab tutor, Dee Chaudhary, a Chattanooga, senior helps Memphis, freshman Nic Spence with his math homework. Chaudhary has only been a tutor for one semester and Spence said he would definitely come back to the math lab for help in the future.

By COURTNEY HOUP  
STAFF REPORTER

UTC's inaugural session of Step Ahead Math, a new summer program offered to freshmen by the UTC math department, was

a huge success, according to professors and students.

The Step Ahead program, a week-long intensive review course, was offered to those freshmen who fit the requirements for Math 106 in hopes they would

be able to successfully pass an exit exam into a college-level math course.

According to Jocelyn Sanders, acting associate provost for academic affairs, Step Ahead Math was created as a result of

two concerns.

One desire of the academic affairs office was to reduce the number of students enrolled in remedial math classes and another was a joint desire of the Hamilton County Department of Education and UTC to more easily transition high school students into college.

"Many students entering college have not taken a math class since their junior year of high school," Sanders said.

"Math has always been a gap for several reasons, including a difficulty in matching the curriculums from a high school to a college level."

To qualify for the program, students must have either placed into math level 15 on the UTC math placement test or had an ACT math sub score between 19 and 21.

If one or the other criteria was met, students were then eligible to spend a week at UTC, living in a dorm and attending 5 days of classes at no personal cost.

Students attended class Friday, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Each class began at 9 a.m. with a quiz over the previous day's material. A lecture followed, then group work and individual work times were scheduled until 12 p.m.

After an hour lunch break, students returned to class to repeat the lecture, group work, one-on-one work cycle until 4 p.m.

Incoming freshmen were informed of the program during their summer orientations.

In total, 59 students completed the 5-day course and 45 of those successfully passed the exit exam required for enrollment in Math 123 or Math 131.

One of these successful students was Lauren Moser, a Dyersburg, Tenn. freshman, who was very pleased with her decision to enroll in the course.

"I would strongly recommend Step Ahead to any incoming freshman," Moser said.

Students were not the only ones who felt the benefits of Step

Ahead. The administrators of the program were also very pleased.

John Graef, head of the math department, said, "I was delighted. Nobody expected results like these for the first time around."

Due to this well-received beginning, the Step Ahead program will be held again in the coming summer.

Billy Edwards, a math professor, was one of the four professors that taught the classes, and he hopes that Step Ahead will become a "permanent fixture" here at UTC.

There are high hopes for this budding addition to the UTC math department.

"While it is wonderful to push up students into 123 or 131, we would eventually like to expand our program to include placing students who test into college algebra directly into trigonometry or calculus," Graef said.

"We want to evaluate this summer and see where we can improve for the next time around," Sanders said.