

1116-VS-2064 **David W Mauro*** (david.mauro@trincoll.edu). *Bridge Courses for Undergraduates – What May Be Missing*. Preliminary report.

A bridge course is a course that is designed to ease the student's transition from lower-level computational courses to upper-level theoretical courses. Aimed at inculcating a mathematical mindset, textbooks and syllabi typically include inferential logic and an introduction to proof techniques, followed by an emphasis on proof-writing within the areas of sets, relations, and functions. Tracing my own students' struggles in proof-writing to their origins has led to a bridge course at Trinity College (CT) in which the art and the science of reading and writing mathematical *definitions* stands not only as a precursor to reading and writing proofs, but as an equal. I describe the exposition of mathematical definition that has evolved, the types of exercises that students encounter, and the responses I am likely to see as students are put to the tests of reading, applying, and ultimately writing their own definitions. (Received September 21, 2015)