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Required Discrete Mathematics Course is No Less Important for Mathematics Majors than
Calculus I.

Many mathematics departments still regard an introductory discrete mathematics course as a service course for Computer Science and not as important as Calculus I for all mathematics majors. Discrete mathematics (DM), here, taken to entail basic combinatorics, graph theory (special attention to trees and optimization questions), solving difference equations (recursions), metrics, (Hamming distance, edit distance), modular arithmetic, etc., is especially important for future teachers (K-16). DM has increasing importance in mathematical modeling and applications for questions involving fairness (voting, apportionment, fair division, matching markets), codes, digital processing, etc. A course entailing such important ideas and applications deserves a place among required mathematics major courses. (Received September 12, 2018)