

Wellesley Emerging Scholars Initiative



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A Learning Community for Students
Enrolled in Calculus



Program Goals

The goal of the Wellesley Emerging Scholars Initiative (WESI) is to **recruit and retain underrepresented students into the math and science majors** by creating a learning community centered on Calculus I/II/III (Math 115/116/205) in which students work through challenging problems to solidify and deepen their understanding of Calculus.

The central features of WESI are:

- a problem-based approach to learning focused on high-level work rather than remediation
- a welcoming community with shared academic interests
- collaborative learning and small-group interactions
- an opportunity to develop mentoring relationships with faculty in the math department at Wellesley

Commitment

WESI requires a good work ethic in math courses.

WESI participants spend 2 hours outside of class attending biweekly workshops—led by Professor Oscar Fernandez and Professor Stanley Chang—which use problem-based learning to tackle challenging Calculus problems that build content knowledge and critical thinking skills.

“I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to interact with math faculty and I found it helpful when studying for exams or doing test corrections. It helped with discipline. I knew at least twice a week outside of class or HW I would have to think about math and that ended up being really useful. Math outside of a classroom became a little more fun (without the pressure of grades).”
—*WESI Spring 2015 Student*

“It was a great way to practice math in a non-stressful environment with peers who faced similar issues as me.”
—*WESI Spring 2014 Student*

“I feel I have done better overall on exams than I would have if I had not attended WESI. I’m really impressed with my test scores.” —*WESI Student*



Application Procedure

We hope that you will consider applying to the Wellesley Emerging Scholars Initiative. To apply, please complete the online application:

<http://goo.gl/forms/J72uCEbv51>

(The weblink has been shortened to make it easier to access.)

APPLICATION DEADLINE. Typically during the second week of the semester (check the online application).

First Workshop. Typically the third week of the semester (we will notify you by email).

Please feel free to contact us with any questions. We are looking forward to welcoming you into the WESI community!

Oscar E. Fernandez
Assistant Professor of Mathematics
ofermand@wellesley.edu

Stanley Chang
Professor of Mathematics
schang@wellesley.edu