

THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

A MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM

MONDAY, June 1, 2009

BOND HALL 217

4:00 pm

Title: Predicting students' math placement at WWU: a Logistic Regression Analysis

Speaker: Matteo Tamburini, Western Washington University

Abstract: When most students enroll at WWU, they take a math placement test which sorts them according to which prerequisites they will need to complete. We investigated whether aspects of students' high school teachers' training can be used to predict their placement. The talk will mainly address Logistic Regression, the statistical model which we used to perform our analysis; it is widely used in epidemiology when the outcome is binary. Our study will be used as a concrete example of the use and relevance of Logistic Regression; our results will also be discussed. The discussion of the statistical model will be accessible to anyone with an understanding of multivariable calculus and introductory statistics. The discussion of the study and its results will be accessible to anyone.

Refreshments will precede the talk at 3:30pm in Bond Hall 300
courtesy of Dr. Victor Chan