Q: Do I have to be a USMA Grad?
A: No, the faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences comes from all commissioning sources. Moreover, the Department welcomes officers from commissioning sources other than USMA.

Q: I have a Master’s Degree in a STEM field; do I need to get another Master’s Degree?
A: Yes, this is an Advanced Civil Schooling (ACS) program which means you will enter a fully funded Master’s Degree program at an accredited institution for two years with a three year utilization tour in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at USMA.

Q: Do I need to be branch qualified?
A: Yes, you will need to be branch qualified by the time you begin graduate school. It is optional to be in a KD position when you submit your packet so long as you are KD complete and have completed the Captain’s Career Course (Advanced Course) before you start graduate school. There is no exception; this is mainly a requirement from your branch to ensure all officers are competitive for promotion to Major.

Q: Where can I go to school?
A: Any accredited school in the United States with name recognition. Many of our officers chosen to be rotating faculty attend one of the foundation schools: Georgia Institute of Technology, Naval Postgraduate School, or Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Other schools our faculty has attended include: Stanford, North Carolina State University, Virginia Tech, Kansas State University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and William and Mary.

Q: In which fields can I earn a degree?
A: Typically, a Masters in Applied Math or Operations Research. There can be exceptions if the degree is a STEM field and math heavy. All degree fields of study must be approved by the Department of Mathematical Sciences’ Department Head.

Q: I am in a branch that does not require company command for me to be KD, do I need company command?
A: Technically no, but it is highly encouraged and it is looked upon as a discriminator between applicants. The experiences from company command are looked upon very favorably for a future instructor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Q: I’ve submitted my complete packet, when will I hear about the results?
A: Typically late January to mid February. The Department S-1 will personally call all candidates who have been selected offering each a slot in the department. Once all slots have been filled, the S-1 will send all applicants who have not been selected a letter informing them they were not selected.

Q: My timeline is not conducive to starting graduate school in the time required by the Department of Mathematical Sciences (waiting for command, still a Lieutenant, etc.). Will this opportunity to apply to be an instructor still be available next year?
A: Yes, the Department of Mathematical Sciences petitions for officers to be instructors in the department every year. Depending on your year group, you may apply the following year. We highly encourage officers to start a packet and update as necessary when you reach certain career milestones.
Q: Can I attend a foreign university?
A: No, you can only attend universities in the United States per the ACS SOP.

Q: I have not taken the GRE; can I have a complete packet without my GRE scores?
A: No, your packet will not be considered. Only complete packets go before the Department of Mathematical Sciences selection committee.

Q: What is the minimum undergraduate GPA accepted?
A: Per the ACS regulation AR 621-1, a GPA of 2.5 is the minimum requirement.

Q: What are the minimum GRE scores accepted?
A: Per AR 621-1 the minimum GRE scores are 153 (Verbal Reasoning), 144 (Quantitative Reasoning), and 4.0 (Analytical). 500, 500, and 4.0 respectively on the old scale.

Q: Other departments require letters of recommendations. Does the Department of Mathematical Sciences require letters of recommendation?
A: No, letters of recommendation are not a requirement for a completed packet. You may submit letters of recommendation along with you packet, but they are not a requirement.

Q: When is the deadline for my packet to be uploaded on the WEST system?
A: Monday 30 November 2015 at 1600 EST.