

1014-97-1242 **W. James Lewis*** (jlewis@math.unl.edu), Department of Mathematics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68508-0130. *Attracting and Retaining Students in the Mathematical Sciences*. Preliminary report.

Many policy makers argue that our colleges and universities need to do a better job of attracting and retaining students who pursue a degree that leads to a mathematically intensive career. Mathematicians also argue that it is in our discipline's best interest to attract more students into mathematics. What is a fair assessment of the job we are doing? Do our lower division courses attract or repel students from mathematics? Is there more we can or should be doing to attract students to major in mathematics? The author will discuss these and related questions. (Received September 27, 2005)