1116-P1-373 Kathleen M. Shannon* (kmshannon@salisbury.edu). Freshman-Level Discrete Mathematics as an Introduction to Proof. Preliminary report.

In the 1980's, there was a push to introduce students to discrete mathematics in parallel with the Calculus. Proof and the language of proof fit neatly into a treatment of discrete mathematics, and at Salisbury University we have had, for over twenty-five years, a required freshman-sophomore-level Discrete Mathematics course, which serves both mathematics and computer science majors and which serves as an introduction to proof for the mathematics majors. We have had students transfer from community colleges with credit for Discrete Mathematics, at least one of whom used our syllabus and text. In this paper, I will describe the syllabus for and content of our course, the in-house text written specifically for the course, student reactions, and outcomes. I will also make an argument for discrete mathematics as a vehicle to introduce students to proof and to get them thinking more broadly about mathematics as a discipline early in their careers. (Received August 28, 2015)