

Meeting: 1000, Albuquerque, New Mexico, SS 16A, Special Session on Mathematics for Secondary Teachers: Curriculum and Assessment

1000-97-100 **David R. Finston*** (dfinston@nmsu.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003, and **Douglas S. Kurtz** (doug@nmsu.edu), Department of Mathematical Sciences, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM 88003. *Mathematics Content Courses for Middle School Teachers*. Preliminary report.

The Department of Mathematical Sciences at New Mexico State University (NMSU), in collaboration with the NMSU College of Education, is developing a sequence of mathematics content courses for middle school mathematics teachers in support of the Master of Arts in Teaching degree offered by the College of Education. The courses cover linear algebra, applied abstract algebra, geometry, discrete mathematics, calculus, mathematical modeling, and statistics. They are designed for distance delivery and to support the following goals: Enhancement of teachers' mathematical knowledge, Cultivation of communication skills in mathematics, Movement towards conceptual understanding of mathematics versus strictly computational facility, Appreciation of mathematics as an integrated whole. Our choices for subject matter and courses will be discussed. The linear algebra course has been offered and the evolution of students' skills will be discussed. The first offering of the applied abstract algebra course is currently underway; preliminary impressions will be discussed. (Received August 19, 2004)