

URI MATH DEPARTMENT DOCTORAL THESIS DEFENSE

TITLE: “Gender-Specific Experiences of Women Undergraduate STEM Students in Online Mathematics Courses During a Pandemic”

Abstract: Introductory college math courses have proven to be a significant barrier to degree completion for students in STEM. In particular, research shows women are more likely to leave STEM fields after failing a math course than their male peers. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic beginning in March of 2020, most students and instructors across the globe were forced to learn and teach in an online format. This phenomenological dissertation investigates the gender-specific experiences of 9 undergraduate women students in STEM taking math courses online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Qualitative analysis of this data revealed four themes that define the experience: communication, instructor choices, relationship with math, and productivity. Recommendations for math instructors based on the experiences of the participants are provided.



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All Are Welcome!

**April 8, 2022 at 3:00pm
Lippitt Hall Room 205**