**Expectations for CURM Group**

1. **Weekly Time Commitment**

You should expect to work about 10 hours per week throughout the academic year.

1. **Professionalism**

This is not a course; it is a collaborative effort.  A high level of professionalism is required:  do not wait until the last moment to finish tasks; don’t be afraid to ask questions or look things up; come prepared to meetings; don’t waste time; give advanced notice if you need to cancel a meeting; and be sure to dress and act professionally at conferences where you will be representing Fresno State.

1. **Meetings**

Most of your research progress will take place outside of meetings.  However, you should expect to meet with me between 2 and 4 hours per week in both the fall and spring semesters.  If at some point during the academic year you are unprepared or overwhelmed with exams, then make sure to request in advance that a meeting be cancelled.  On the other hand, you will need to set extra time aside at high stress times like conference presentations – expect to meet for longer time periods.

1. **Independence**

Most of our work will be done outside of our meetings, either in meetings with your research partner or alone.  This will require significant motivation and efficient time-management on your part so that you can make regular progress towards successfully completing the project. The weekly Excel time sheets should help you: (1) make sure that you are allocating sufficient time for your research work, and (2) keep track of your progress to date.

1. **Collaboration**

Hopefully, our work will result in a publication in a professional mathematical journal.  Please note that in mathematics, author names are listed alphabetically (by last name). The reasoning behind this is that the finished product would not be possible without everyone's contributions.  Anyone who proved results given in the paper will be included as an author.  We all need to work hard, together, to develop the best possible models and write up our work, so strong collaboration is essential.  You should, therefore, keep in mind that there is no competition with your partner or with the other research pair; we all need to help each other out and rely on each other's strengths.

1. **Travel**

You are expected to prepare a professional talk, written professionally using Beamer (a LaTeX form for producing slides), and speak at the [CURM conference in March in Utah](http://curm.byu.edu/2011conference) (a requirement of all participants, for which we have funds from CURM), as well as at least one other local venue in the spring.  These talks will require a significant amount of practice (in front of team members, friends, and alone) to make them presentable in a professional setting.

1. **Publication of Results**

During the spring semester all results need to be written up in a professional, clear, and mathematically correct form, including any proof details, for a final written research report to be submitted to CURM. Ideally, the results will be publishable, in which case the research report will need to be modified to create a paper to be submitted for publication.  This work is collaborative, so effective communication and cooperation is essential.  The writing should be complete enough that during the summer, I can help you to finish the paper and submit it.