

Math Department Fall Seminar

**Wednesday, Nov 2, 2011
1:30pm Room 518**

Speaker: Eric Jacobson

Title: Measuring algebra ability using Item Response Theory

Abstract:

Collegiate tests in general, and WSU algebra tests in particular, have been based on an early testing model whose measures are tied to the specific test given. Resulting scores rank students relative to other students, but do not directly measure ability. Psychometricians have developed newer models, together known as Item Response Theory, which overcome these drawbacks. Scores from these models are direct measures of ability and are independent of specific test context. IRT models will be described and their potential advantages for WSU will be explained.

“Psychometrics is mathematical statistics in the service of substantive psychology (1999.)”
Ivo Molenaar, Department of Statistics and Measurement Theory, University of Groningen;
and advocate for Item Response Theory.

Everyone is Welcome.