

CHOOSE UM ! By Valentina Nicolini , 30 October 2023

*Hello, everyone! I'm Valentina Nicolini, a freshman student at UM, majoring in applied mathematics with a double major in computer science and a minor in finance.*

*Before I explain why I chose UM, let me give you some background on my journey in mathematics. I have always excelled in math, consistently earning A's and even taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses in the subject. However, I never considered myself a 'math savant.' It was only when I was selected for the Girls Are For STEM program that I began to truly appreciate the potential of mathematics. Dr. Teicher introduced us to the math professors, and as I attended my classes, I developed a genuine passion for it. I began to see all the countless career options that a math degree offers. The events, meetings, and guest speakers organized by Dr. Teicher further solidified my decision to major in mathematics. She always told us 'math is everywhere' and now I see that it is!!! In many ways, this program changed the course of my life!*

*Although I was accepted to several top schools, including UM with scholarships, I realized that I needed to think beyond my preconceived ideas about college. Regardless of the institution I chose, I would earn my degree. As I compared my options, UM quickly emerged as the top contender.*

*Here's why:*

*Beyond the state of Florida, UM boasts a global reputation for excellence in research. This is crucial when selecting a college because it significantly impacts the opportunities available. Dr. Teicher has meticulously crafted a math program aimed at fostering a generation of women in math-related fields. No other university, especially at the undergraduate level, offers this. UM allows students to pursue single, double, and even triple majors, along with minors, which substantially enhances our potential in the workforce and builds a robust and versatile resume.*

*I initially had reservations about staying in Miami or Florida for college. However, I am delighted that I chose UM. The campus is alive, brimming with energy, and incredibly welcoming. With a 70% out state & international student body and also professors are from all over the world, UM offers a global perspective. The Math department at UM is fully committed to the success of female students in math. They provide unwavering support, and their dedication to our education is unparalleled.*

*UM invests significantly in its students, offering amenities such as free coffee, donuts, live music, and pizza evenings to create a unique student culture. The university also boasts a powerful alumni network, both nationally and particularly in Miami. UM's alumni actively support current students and fellow alumni.*

*What sets UM apart is the Girls Are For STEM program curated by Dr. Teicher. It provides special and very valuable opportunities for internships, meetings, social events, and more that distinguishes it from any other program. Dr. Teicher's mentorship and leadership are unique to*

*UM, offering students a distinct advantage. For instance, she recently organized a site visit to a top hedge fund in Miami, where we had the opportunity to meet with female leaders in the industry and the head of Human Resources, paving the way for potential internships. Internships are crucial for post-graduation employment, and this is a feature Dr. Teicher has integrated into her Girls Are For STEM program. It's truly amazing!*

*I wholeheartedly encourage you to consider applying to UM. They offer generous scholarships, and in some cases, even full scholarships. I assure you that you won't regret it; it could very well be the best decision of your life, like it was for me!*

*Valentina*