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The mathematical education of primary and secondary school teachers: the experience of Université Laval

In most Canadian universities, the education of pre-university teachers represents an important component of the task of the mathematics department, at least in terms of the number of students involved. Such is the case at Université Laval, where the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is responsible for several courses offered in the context of the pre-service education of teachers. These include two compulsory math courses given to prospective primary school teachers, and seven courses specific to prospective secondary school teachers.

The aim of this talk is to describe briefly the general framework of the mathematical education of school teachers at Université Laval and to discuss the main themes around which the content of the mathematics courses is articulated. Examples will be given of the mathematical topics presented in these courses; some of the pedagogical approaches will also be discussed.

Comments about both the departmental support of these activities, and the collaboration with colleagues from the Faculty of Education and from other departments of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering, will be presented. A brief comparison will be made with other Canadian universities.