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Mathematical Housing: Downsizing a First Year Proofs Course

In 2015, the University of Waterloo made a bold decision to reduce the size of their first year first term Introduction to Mathematical Proofs course from 180 students per class to 60. In addition, it was also decided that the course would move from 3 lecture hours a week to 4 lecture hours a week with the intention that students see a mix of both lecturing and tutorial work during class time. All of this followed a course reform that took place in 2012 to account for the changes in education in incoming populations of students.

I will discuss some of the results of this experiment and the effect it has had on first year attrition rates. I will also discuss many of the techniques that I have personally infused into my classroom in response to the additional classroom time.