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Is Calculus Really Necessary

Mathematics is more than formulas and numbers, but how can we make non-math majors appreciate this? In this talk, I will describe a potential alternative to Calculus, a general problem solving course.

Most first year students in Natural Sciences, Business and Education are required to take Calculus. For many of them, Calculus seems unrelated to their career ambitions. So, we must really ask ourselves, are there other potential avenues to get students thinking, investigating and problem solving in mathematics?

I will suggest course content, structure and objectives of a potential problem solving course. The course I am suggesting would be targeted to non-math majors and focus on solving problems strategies, frameworks and practice of open ended non-routine problems. I will also detail universities in Ontario that offer similar courses.