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Bonnie Gold* (bgold@monmouth.edu), Mathematics Department, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ 07764-1898. *Helping First-Semester Freshmen Mathematics Majors Develop Proofs*. Preliminary report.

At Monmouth University, our entering freshman mathematics majors may have mathematics SAT scores of 500 or even lower. They often need to start with precalculus (or even college algebra). Yet we want them, by the time they graduate as mathematics majors, to have a mathematical education equivalent to that of graduates of other universities. For us, this means we need to introduce them to proof early, and have them work on it through their four years with us. In this talk I will discuss how we have gradually modified our Discrete Mathematics course toward this goal, some of the challenges we have dealt with along the way, and what we've learned about teaching proof to beginning freshman mathematics majors. (Received September 19, 2006)