1023-Z1-852   **Judith Covington*** (`judith.covington@lsus.edu`), Mathematics Department, One University Place, Shreveport, LA. *Mathematics Courses for Future Grade 1-6 Teachers at Louisiana State University Shreveport.*

LSUS offers 12 hours of mathematics courses for 1-6 grades teachers. The first 3 hours is a traditional college algebra course required by the state. The next 9 are a sequence developed for grades 1-8 teachers, however the certification levels have changed and we do not certify 5-8. Algebra is a prerequisite for the sequence and the courses must be taken in order with a minimum grade of C in the previous course. The students must complete these courses before taking their methods courses.

The first course is number sense and problem solving. The second course is geometry. The final course is probably, statistics and number structure. We feel that students completing these courses have a stronger understanding of the mathematics that they will teach than they did coming in. The teaching strategy focuses on why something works and not just how to do the problem. Many students in the first course struggle with the difference between being able to work a problem and being able to explain their work. By the end of the first course students are much more comfortable expressing their thoughts and questions and in explaining their own work. In this presentation, I will describe the course requirements for our students and then talk in more detail about our third course. (Received September 22, 2006)