

CAREER

Exploring career options outside engineering for those who love maths

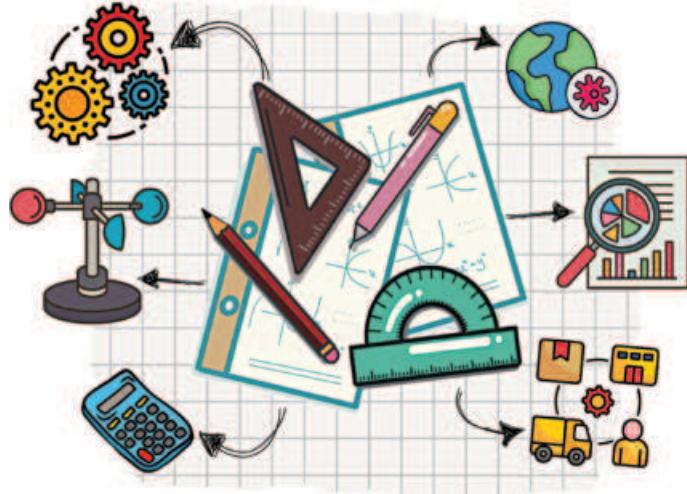


ILLUSTRATION: ADRITA ZAIMA ISLAM

TAZRIN RASHID PRITHA

Mathematics is often referred to as the language of the universe given how it is frequently used to describe its fundamental nature. Hence, being a math whiz definitely has its perks.

Studies have shown that people who enjoy solving mathematical problems have enhanced problem-solving and critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of the world. It also opens up an array of interesting career opportunities beyond just engineering.

Financial analyst

A financial analyst helps people and companies make smart monetary decisions by analysing financial data. They assess a company's performance through financial reports, predict future trends, research market conditions, and assist with investment decisions.

Important skills for financial analysts include strong mathematical problem-solving abilities, attention to detail, and proficiency with Excel. It also demands effective communication and time management skills from the professionals. That's because financial analysts are frequently required to clearly communicate their findings or analyses to others at work, and often within tight deadlines.

Those interested in this profession can start by obtaining a bachelor's degree in Finance or a related field. Earning a professional certification, like the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification, offers an additional advantage.

Meteorologist

A meteorologist is a scientist who specialises in studying and predicting weather conditions. They utilise mathematical models, equations, and statistical methods to interpret data gathered from weather instruments and satellites. By analysing this data, meteorologists forecast weather

conditions accurately.

To become a meteorologist in Bangladesh, individuals typically begin by obtaining a bachelor's degree in Meteorology, Atmospheric Science, or a related field from a UGC-recognised university. Aspiring meteorologists further gain practical experience through internships or training programmes at meteorological agencies, like the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), which allows them to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world weather analysis and forecasting.

Epidemiologist

Epidemiology might be the perfect career option for individuals who are equally passionate about mathematics and biology.

An epidemiologist is a public health professional who specialises in understanding the causes and locations of disease outbreaks. Epidemiologists utilise mathematics to create models that simulate how diseases move through communities which, in turn, helps them predict future outbreaks and evaluate the effectiveness of various disease prevention or outbreak-control strategies.

To become an epidemiologist in Bangladesh, individuals start by earning a bachelor's degree in Epidemiology, Public Health, or a related field from a UGC-recognised university. It is also expected for future epidemiologists to gain practical experience through internships or training in epidemiology at research institutions like the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research (IEDCR) and icddr,b.

Supply chain analyst

Supply chain analysts are experts who ensure that products are efficiently transported from factories to shops across the country and even other parts of the world. Mathematics allows them to bring efficiency to their workflow.

Supply chain analysts use mathematics and statistics to predict how much of a product people will buy which, in turn, helps their companies to decide on how much to produce and keep in stock. They also utilise mathematics to plan efficient routes for delivering goods and decide where to store products in warehouses.

Supply chain analysts in Bangladesh typically start their career trajectory with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, ideally with a concentration in Supply Chain Management, and eventually secure certification as a Certified Supply Chain Analyst (CSCA). In terms of mathematical skills, supply chain analysts should have a strong understanding of arithmetic, linear algebra, and mathematical modelling. Based on their day-to-day job requirements, they might also need to work with large data sets and use quantitative methods to analyse data, for which having a sound knowledge of statistics is crucial.

Tazrin, a Finance student, sees stocks and stars aligning. Remind her to take a break from the cosmos at rashidtazrin1@gmail.com

DO YOU HAVE MATHS ANXIETY?

Maths anxiety triggers worry or panic when solving maths problems, but it isn't tied to one's intellectual abilities. While anyone can experience it, girls tend to have higher levels of anxiety about maths than boys, despite generally showing similar levels of maths performance, according to findings by the *Journal of Educational Psychology*.

Signs of maths anxiety can include anything from feeling panicked or stressed to increased heart rate or sweating and nausea when solving maths problems. Sometimes, the anxiety can reach levels where one will try to avoid situations involving maths entirely.

While maths anxiety doesn't reflect academic ability, its stress can impact performance, creating a cycle of fear and avoidance. This reinforces the belief that math skills are fixed, reducing motivation to practice and improve, ultimately hindering learning and progress in the subject.

You can overcome maths anxiety by practising regularly, breaking problems into smaller steps, using positive self-talk, and seeking help from teachers or tutors. It'll take time to get over your fear and anxiety, but every small step, in this regard, counts.



**WITH MORE CAPACITY, WE ARE MORE READY
TO BUILD TOMORROW'S BANGLADESH**

BSRM
building a safer nation