

UVM MS+PHD Exam topics  
SYLLABUS FOR COMBINATORICS

**Basic enumeration:** binomial coefficients, double-counting, inclusion-exclusion, derangements, Möbius function, Möbius inversion, Burnside's lemma, Stirling numbers, Bell numbers, generating functions, Fibonacci and Catalan numbers;

**Posets:** posets, (anti)chains, hypercubes, Erdős-Szekeres lemma

*PhD only:* Dilworth's theorem, Sperner's theorem, symmetric chains, Erdős-Ko-Rado theorem, the incidence algebra of a poset;

**Partitions:** *PhD only:* the function  $p_k(n)$ , Ferrers diagram, asymptotics, Euler's identity, asymptotics;

**Graph theory:** (spanning) trees, paths, cycles, Hall's theorem, Cayley's theorem, connectivity, vertex/edge covering, Menger's theorem, Tutte's theorem, bipartite graphs, König's theorem, Erdős-Posa theorem, Hamiltonicity, coloring, Tutte polynomial, Turan and Ramsey numbers, flows, Ford-Fulkerson algorithm, Birkhoff's theorem, circulations, planarity, Kuratowski's theorem, the Matrix-tree theorem.

*PhD only:* Hadwiger conjecture, minors, well-quasi-ordering, Robertson-Seymour, tree-width, probabilistic method

**Generating functions:** Weighted sums of objects, Ordinary GFs, exponential GFs, Dirichlet series, exponential formula, 'Snake Oil', WZ Method.

**Symmetric functions and tableaux:** Standard and semistandard tableaux, tableaux insertion, hook