Sophomores and Juniors: Are you looking for an independent study to work on a research project on Math tutoring for fall 2012?

4MALITY (4-Coach Mathematics Active Learning Intelligent Tutoring System) is an online tutor designed to support third, fourth and fifth grade students in developing their abilities as math problem solvers. It is being developed by Robert Maloy and Sharon Edwards, faculty members in the School of Education. 4MALITY provides problem solving strategies to students via four online coaches who represent different problem solving strategies for elementary level math word problems: Estella Explainer (reading comprehension), Chef Math Bear (number operations), Visual Vicuna (animations of math relationships), and How-to-Hound (strategic thinking).

This year 4MALITY is being piloted in selected elementary classrooms in three states. The project is funded in part by a small grant from the Verizon Foundation. There is an opportunity for students to do an independent study project with 4MALITY. The independent study student will contribute to the development and assessment of the system, including learning and using Photoshop to develop short math animations, developing strategies for solving math word problems, and assessing the impact of online tutoring on math performance. A student with a background or interest in math and/or education is desirable. There will be opportunities to work directly with students in local schools. Transportation is not required.

Please contact dean@honors.umass.edu and state why you would like to do this
independent study project.

Source URL (retrieved on 01/23/2019 - 4:16pm):
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