# Mathematics Teacher Education Programs

## March 2024

## Checkpoint Information!

**Checkpoint #1 (Initial Admission to PTEP):**
- Applications are due **March 15th** if you plan on taking **STEP 161** in Fall 2024; Applications include a fingerprint background check.
- The mandatory meetings have passed; if you were not able to attend, you MUST contact Cheryl Sparks ASAP! (Check the Canvas shell!)

**Checkpoint #2 (Full Admission to PTEP) & Checkpoint #3 (Application for Student Teaching) are closed.**

## Math Study Halls and Math Club!

**Math Study Halls** are a social event to help students connect with each other and with faculty. There will be professors and students to assist with homework as well as play games and hang out. They will be held every **Wednesday** from **4:00 to 5:00** in **Ross 2060.**

**Math Club** meets every week on **Wednesdays** from **5:00 to 6:00** in **Ross 2090**. We play fun math games, learn about various math topics, and enjoy **FREE** pizza! Everyone is welcome!

## Advice from District 6 Middle School Educator of the Year, Lauren Morford ('20)!

Lauren teaches at Brentwood Middle School.

**What has been one of your greatest successes while teaching? Why?**
- I am extremely proud of the success I have had with multilingual learners! I have a math intervention class for Newcomers and because of my limited ability to speak Spanish, I can support them in basic number sense to find slope and scale factors.

**What has been a challenge you have overcome while teaching? What supported you to overcome the challenge?**
- Work-life balance is hard. My husband has been extremely supportive in helping me navigate teaching, grading, extracurriculars, and stress.

**What advice do you have for students in our middle school or secondary teacher preparation programs at UNC?**
- Be in the schools as much as possible! Whether this is volunteering, observing other teachers, or completing your practicum hours, it is so important to have exposure to a variety of different circumstances and environments. Also, don't be afraid to take risks. You won't know what works unless you try!

**What do you know now that you wished you knew when you were a student at UNC?**
- Being a math teacher has two main components: Teaching math and raising humans. Some days it's okay if all you did was raise humans.

**How do you know if a school is the right fit for you?**
- I think it entirely depends on supportive administration, coachable staff, and strong relationships with students. If you have those three things, never leave!

## Unpaid Work-Based Learning Scholarship

This is a one-time **$2,500** scholarship meant for students across the University who are pursuing unpaid work-based learning opportunities such as **STUDENT TEACHING!** The deadline is **March 31st** and it can be submitted through the UNC Scholarship Application. More information is available there and on the bulletin board, including eligibility requirements.

## Looking for a Teaching Job?

On **March 21st from 1-6 pm and 22nd from 9am-5pm** in the UC Ballroom, the spring 2024 K-12 Educator Employment Fair is being held. It is a great way to meet schools in the surrounding area that are hiring and connect with the administrators so they know about you before you submit an application.

## Praxis Info

To become licensed by the Colorado Department of Education, future teachers need to pass the appropriate Praxis exam. To **send your scores to UNC**, **use** the code **4074** when taking the exam. You are given 180 minutes (3 hours) to complete 66 questions (not all questions are scored the same). Each attempt costs $130 but you can take it as many times as necessary. You must take the Praxis before **STEP 363 and pass it before STEP 464** (Student Teaching). **Versions and Passing Scores**
- Secondary Math Teachers (7-12) take **Praxis 5165** and get a score of **159 to pass**.
- Middle School Math Teachers (6-8) take **Praxis 5164** and get a score of **157 to pass**

STE has a **special discount rate** with 240tutoring.com that provides access to Praxis study materials like flashcards, quizzes, practice tests and more! It's $20/month and can be canceled at any time. Click on this link to get started. **Questions should be directed to Cheryl Sparks.**

## Group Advising Information

**ALL** students in the Middle School and Secondary Mathematics Teacher Education Programs were **REQUIRED** to attend one of the group advising meetings. If you were unable to attend one of the meetings, you must meet with the Peer Mentor to learn about updated program information. You still must meet with your advisor to get your pin before you are able to register.

## Office Hours

Mentoring Hours (ROSS 2230B):
- **Tuesdays:**    11:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **Wednesdays:** 4:00 pm - 5:00   pm
- **Thursdays:**    3:30 pm - 4:30  pm

Praxis Prep Sessions (ROSS 2230G):
- **Tuesdays:**   3:30 pm - 4:30   pm
- **Thursdays:** 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

## Practice Praxis Problems

Question 1:
Define mutually exclusive, independent, and dependent as they related to probability.

Question 2:
Define the following terms: data, quantitative data, qualitative data, discrete date, continuous data, primary and secondary data, ordinal data, and nominal data.

Come to Office Hours to get the solutions!