

Mathematics Teacher Education Programs



February 2024



Checkpoint Information!

Three [checkpoints](#) exist to assist students in completing various PTEP requirements. Each checkpoint has a Canvas shell. Checkpoints include a **mandatory meeting** (different from the group advising meetings that are part of the Mathematics Education programs, you must attend both) as well as completing an **application** and submitting it to the School of Teacher Education (STE). Students planning to take STEP 161, STEP 363, or STEP 464 in Fall 2024 should see the relevant Canvas shell on their Canvas Dashboard. If you do not, contact Cheryl Sparks (cheryl.sparks@unco.edu) right away. This semester, email [this electronic form](#) for **Dr. Powers** (robert.powers@unco.edu) to sign as the content advisor for **ALL** checkpoints. Plan your course schedule to allow for your placement in a local school during the day (3-9 hours per week).

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
- Must attend one of the following meetings: **February 19th from 5 - 6:30 pm** or **February 20th from 4 - 5:30 pm**

Checkpoint #2 (Full Admission to PTEP):

- Applications are due **March 1st** if you plan on taking **STEP 363** in Fall 2024; Applications include taking the PRAXIS (you do not have to have passed at this stage)
- Must attend one of the following meetings: **February 5th from 5 - 6:30 pm** or **February 8th from 4 - 5:30 pm**

Checkpoint #3 (Application for Student Teaching):

- Applications are due **February 2nd** if you plan on taking **STEP 464** in Fall 2024; Applications include passing the PRAXIS with scores to submit
- Must attend one of the following meetings: **January 29th from 5 - 6:30 pm** or **February 1st from 4:30 - 6 pm**

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!

Braly Geneva Teaching Scholarship

This is a one-time **\$5,000** scholarship honoring Geneva Smithlin an alum of UNC that is due on **February 1st**. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Be pursuing a teaching degree at UNC
- Be a full time student (12 credits a semester)
- Have completed at least 30 credits
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0

UNC Scholarship Application

UNC offers a wide variety of scholarship opportunities for which current students are eligible to apply. The scholarship application opens on **November 1st** this year and closes on **February 1st**. Some scholarships have earlier application dates than others, so the earlier you apply the more opportunities you have to receive scholarships!

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 **MUST** attend one of these meetings:

- Wednesday, February 21st from 4:00 - 5:00 pm via Zoom using this [link](#).
- Thursday, February 22nd from 2:00 - 3:00 pm in Ross Hall 2275.

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:

Determine the distance and midpoint between points $(2, 4)$ and $(8, 6)$.

Question 2:

Suppose a farmer has 720 m of fencing, and he wants to use it to fence in a 2 by 3 block of identical rectangular pens. What dimensions of the pens will maximize their area?

Come to Office Hours to get the solutions!