

Sharon Christensen
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Areas of Interest

Mathematical Knowledge for Teaching, Student Teaching for Secondary Mathematics Teachers

Education

MA, Mathematics Education

Brigham Young University – Provo, Ut, 2010

Project: Writing Geometry Curriculum

BA, Mathematics Education

Brigham Young University – Provo, UT, 1989

Teaching, Brigham Young University

MTHED 305 Basic Concepts of Mathematics, Fall 2015 – present (15 sections)

Concept-oriented exploration of number, measurement, and informal geometry in relation to children's learning.

MTHED 306 Concepts of Mathematics, Winter 2016 – present (29 sections)

Concept-oriented exploration of rational numbers and proportional reasoning, probability, and early algebraic reasoning in relation to children's learning.

Math 110 College Algebra, Summer 2017 – present (5 sections-3 semesters)

Functions, polynomials, theory of equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, systems of linear equations, permutations, combinations, binomial theorem.

Math 112 Calculus, Fall 2016 – present (39 sections-9 semesters)

Differential and integral calculus: limits; continuity; the derivative and applications; extrema; the definite integral; fundamental theorem of calculus; L'Hopital's rule.

MTHED 277 Task Design & Assess Understanding, Spring 2018 – present (4 sections)

Building tasks that elicit important mathematical ideas. Reflecting on and assessing the success of tasks through questioning and other methods of formative assessment.

MTHED 477R Sec Minor Student Teaching, Fall 2017 – present (6 sections)

Supervised, full-day, four week experience to develop and demonstrate competence in teaching minor area course content in the secondary classroom.

MTHED 476 Student Teaching in Math, Fall 2015 – present (17 sections)

Capstone, field-based, semester-long experience in teaching mathematics to secondary students; demonstrating proficiency in all program standards. Seminar required.

MTHED 177 Critical Review of School Math, Summer 2021 – present (2 sections)

Concept-oriented exploration of middle school mathematics, with an emphasis on multiplicative structures, proportionality, and linearity. Gain an awareness of what it means to be a mathematics learner in learning communities.

MTHED 276 Exploration of Math Teaching, Fall 2021 – present (5 sections)

Gain a perspective of secondary teachers experiences associated with teaching through a field-based experience and looking at National Mathematics Standards.

MTHED 377 Math Teaching in Public Schools, Winter 2021 – present (5 sections)

Developing skill in designing and implementing lesson plans that include high-cognitive demand tasks; anticipating, monitoring, and building on student mathematical thinking; and orchestrating mathematical discussions that lead to student understanding of fundamental mathematics concepts.

MTHED 378 Practicum in Math Education, Winter 2021 – present (4 sections)

Observing secondary mathematics classrooms as a means of reflecting on teaching practices that support student learning of fundamental mathematical concepts, including use of high-cognitive demand tasks and orchestration of mathematical discussions as well as eliciting, making sense of, and building on student mathematical thinking.

Prior Teaching Experience

Mathematics Teacher, Mountain Ridge Junior High, 2002 – 2015

Taught seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth grade math

Mentored student teachers
Mentored first year teachers

Alpine District – Secondary Math Specialist (half-time math specialist, half-time teacher) 2001–2003

Taught eighth and ninth grade math
Coached secondary math teachers in Alpine District
Helped implement new math curriculum in both elementary and secondary schools

Mathematics Teacher, Lakeridge Junior High, 1989 – 2002

Taught seventh, eighth, and ninth grade math
Mentored student teachers

Citizenship Assignments

Student Teacher Coordinator, Mathematics Education Department, Fall 2017 – present

Secondary Education Committee member, Fall 2019 – present

Initial Programs Council (IPC) Math Ed dept. Representative, Educator Preparation Programs, 2019 – present

Pacific Islands PD Exploratory Committee member, 2021—present (currently on hold)

Peer Teaching Evaluations Coordinator for Math Ed dept., 2022– 2023

Membership in Professional Organizations

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM)
Utah Council of Teachers of Mathematics (UCTM)
Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE)
Utah Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (UAMTE)

Awards

Karl G. Maeser Professional Faculty excellence Ward, August 2025

Presentations

Edenfield, K., (University of Georgia) & **Christensen, S.** AMTE 2020 (presentation); *Rethinking the Student Teacher Experience: Engaging in a Dialogue about Paired-Placement Student Teaching* (Feb. 2020)

Tanner, A., & **Christensen, S.** NCTM 2021 (virtual presentation); *The Power of Imagination: Transforming Processes into Conceptual Understanding* (Apr. 2021)

Christensen, S. & Cannon, T. AMTE 2023 Supporting Mathematics Mentor Teachers through Collaborative Experiences (Feb. 2023)

Cannon, T., Teuscher, D., & **Christensen, S.** AMTE 2023 Developing Prospective Mathematics Teacher Noticing through Lesson Debriefings (Accepted for Feb. 2023)

Cannon, T., **Christensen, S.** UCTM 2024 Strengthening student teachers through engaging pedagogy practice

Cannon, T., **Christensen, S.** ICME 2024 Collaborative Support for Mentor Teachers Learning to Teach Student Teachers

Research

Teuscher, D., Cannon, T., & Christensen, S. (accepted). Secondary prospective mathematics teachers learning to notice and use a dual perspective of teaching. *School Science and Mathematics Special Issue on Mathematics and Science Teachers Noticing: Conceptual Explorations and Empirical Connections*.

Internal Grants

Cannon, T. and **Christensen, S.** *Mentor Teacher Training* funded by High Impact Teaching Support (HITS) grant from the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (Spring 2022).