



# Amanda Fa'onelua

Instructor of the Practice of Mathematics

## About Me:

After growing up in a rural farming community in South Dakota, I sought a new adventure. I attended BYU-Hawaii where I received a B.S. in Mathematics Education and also met my husband, who is from Tonga. Together we have three kids, and we lived in South Dakota for the last 14 years. I have an M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction, Mathematics Emphasis from the University of Texas at Arlington. For the past 17 years, I was a secondary math teacher (the last six years teaching remotely from my home). I love teaching math, and I'm excited for the opportunity to expand my career into higher education.

## Where are you from?

I am from northeastern South Dakota.

## What topics or subject areas do you enjoy teaching the most?

I enjoy teaching trigonometry and introductory Calculus.

## What excites you most about teaching in higher education?

I'm excited to work with students who are either growing into adulthood or are already there and help them get closer to their chosen career goals.

## What are your hobbies and other interests?

I like to read books, play golf and pickleball, and attend my children's sporting events (baseball, football, and volleyball right now).

## What is your main source of motivation or inspiration?

My students. I want my students to live to their fullest potential. I'm a natural and curious problem-solver, and I'm constantly thinking about ways to help them get there.

## Why did you choose UT?

Our family was looking to move to a warmer climate that was closer to extended family- With Utah Tech, we get both! I'm also very excited to join a wonderful environment at UT and within the math department.

## Share one fun or unusual fact about yourself:

I can count to 10 in five languages: English, Spanish, German, Tongan, and Lakota.