

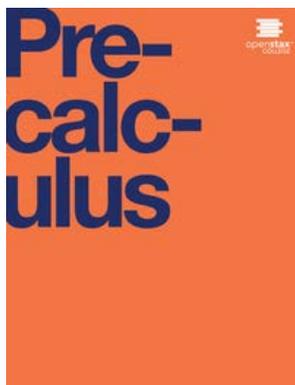


## Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education ([www.cool4ed.org](http://www.cool4ed.org)). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

### Precalculus



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

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Format

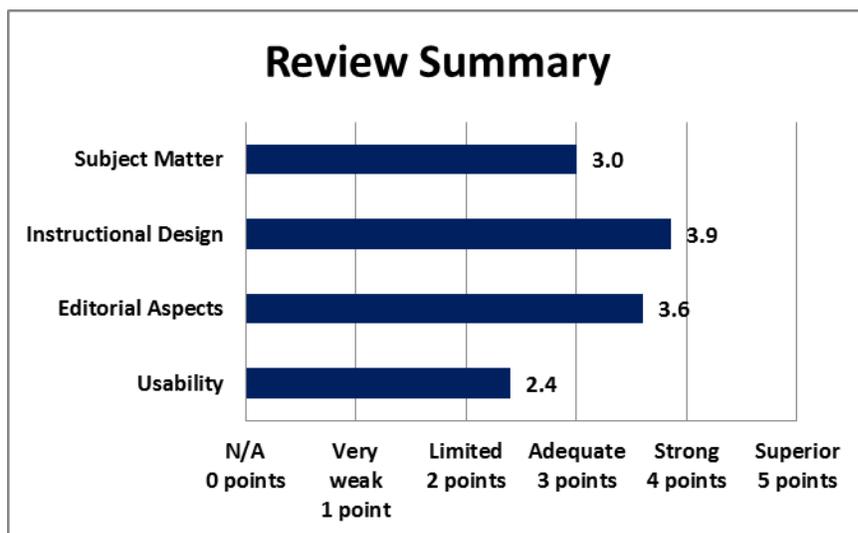
Reviewed:

[Online](#)

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Date Reviewed:

August 2015



### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [MATH 155](#)

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?				X		
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?				X		
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples				X		

to present its subject matter?						
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?				X		
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?				X		
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)				X		

Total Points: 18 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- The content is very standard. Examples are similar to ones found in other precalculus textbooks.
- This is a function-based precalculus textbook. It does a very good job of dealing with all the functions outlined in the C-ID descriptor content for this class.
- It does a poor job of discussing equations. There are few exercises dealing with equations and examples on how to [do] some equations are nonexistent. It does not cover equations and inequalities.
- The instructor will need to supplement the textbook to meet C-ID descriptor course content 6 & 7. However, it does cover all the objectives outline in the C-ID descriptor.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?				X		
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)					X	
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?					X	
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?					X	
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?					X	
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)						X
Is the textbook searchable?				X		

Total Points: 27 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- The content flow of the textbook is similar to other precalculus texts. There are lots of tables, graphs, and illustrations.
- Examples: There are ample examples in each section. Graphs, tables, and pictures are provided when relevant. Some examples contain "Try It" problems after the example.
- Technology: Examples using scientific and graphing calculators are scattered throughout the text. They are not specific to any brand of calculator. Instructions are not provided. The discussion is general. The instructor will need to supplement with additional calculator instruction.
- Ancillary materials: Every section contains a good collection of exercises at the end. PowerPoint slides and an instructor's solution manual is available for instructor download. Students can download the student solutions manual for free. Online homework systems are also available: WebAssign (\$32.95 for single use - comes with ebook); xyzHomework (unknown annual subscription price).
- Navigation: The CTRL-F function (Windows) works for searching for key words and phrases in the textbook. The table of contents is linked to the respective sections of the textbook. When a prior example is referenced, the text is linked to the reference so the reader can directly jump back to that part of the text. The index is also linked to the page numbers shown. Overall, navigation is very good for a PDF file.

<b>Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)</b>	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?				X		
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages laid out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)					X	
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)					X	
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)				X		

Total Points: 18 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The writing is very straight-forward and to the point. You will not see lots of transition sentences in the text. The beginning of the chapter contains a brief introduction and dovetails into the content material quickly.
- The pages are laid out very nicely. It was easy to read in print and on-screen.
- At the end of each section is list of clickable links to more resources.

<b>Usability (25 possible points)</b>	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?				X		
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)			X			
Can the textbook be printed easily?				X		
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?				X		
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?		X				

Total Points: 12 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- The textbook is only provided in PDF format. Most computers in college/university campus student computer labs have some type of PDF reader installed.
- Ease of use, navigation, and annotation is dependent on the user's familiarity with PDF documents and the user's software. With the correct software, you can make notes in the text and even edit it.

<b>Overall Ratings</b>	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?					X	
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
				X		

Total Points: 7 out of 10

## Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- This textbook is free. It is formatted just like a costly print textbook. There are lots of examples with tables, graphs, and pictures. Exercises are provided at the end of each section.

- The Student Solutions Manual is free for download. PowerPoint slides and the Instructor's Solution Manual are also available. You can use WebAssign or xyzHomework with this textbook for a relatively low cost.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- Add a review of how to solve equations (linear, rational, polynomial, etc.) and inequalities to the appendix of the textbook.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to [the textbook site in MERLOT](#)  
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