



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). 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



License:



Precalculus by Carl Stitz and Jeff Zeager is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/)

Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

Textbook Authors:

Carl Stitz and Jeff Zeager

Reviewed by:

Larry Green

Institution:

Lake Tahoe
Community College

Title/Position:

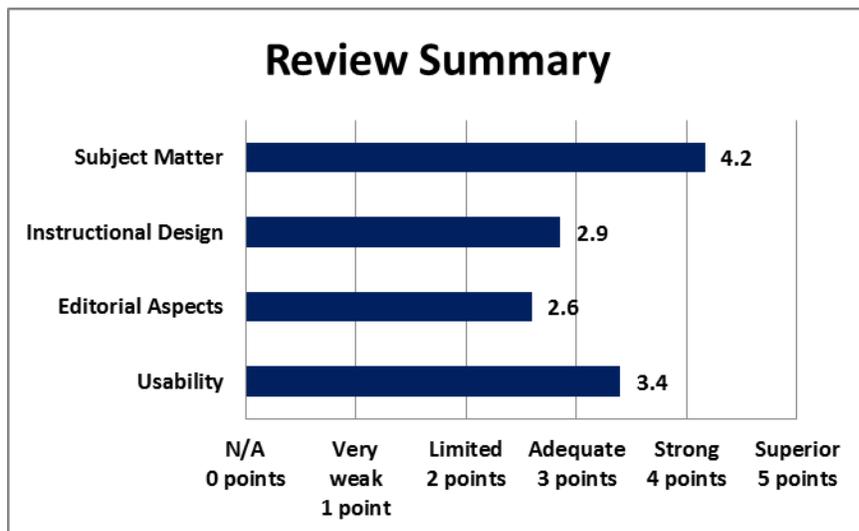
Professor

Format

Reviewed:

[Online](#)

A small fee may be associated with various formats.



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 to present its subject matter?				X		
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: 25 out of 30

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

- This textbook covers all of the content that is taught in the standard precalculus course. It includes all of the standard definitions and identities.
- It has some applications, but most of the applications come from physics. Applications from a wider variety of subjects such as biology, geology and computer science would connect the wide variety of students who take this course.

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: 20 out of 35

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

- The explanations provided in the textbook are clear, but many are presented as long paragraphs. It would be pedagogically better to place each equation and expression on its own line.
- It is missing the end of the chapter summary and chapter tests that the standard textbooks all include.
- The textbook is in pdf, so is searchable if the student knows that control f will pull up a search box.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	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: 13 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- This textbook is quite plain. It has an occasional link to Wikipedia, but does not take advantage of the plethora of online OER resources such as interactive apps, videos and other creative sites. There is almost no use of color and there are no pictures, just mathematical figures.

- The textbook has an index with links, but no glossary.

Usability (25 possible points)	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: 17 out of 25

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

- The textbook is just in pdf format, so should be easy to read.
- Both the table of contents and the index are linked and there are links to exercises and terms.
- There are no additional navigational tools available such as a table of contents frame or links at each chapter and section to its subparts.

Overall Ratings	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: 5 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- The textbook covers all the topics taught in just about any precalculus course.
- It is free of errors.
- It contains detailed explanations of each topic that are written at the level of the precalculus student.

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

- It would have to have more flair such as interesting pictures to accompany the applications, interactive activities or at least links to activities on other sites.
- Technologically it is still in the 20th century in that all tech references involve the calculator and not the large collection of superior interactive resources that reside on the Internet.
- The applications need to be more diverse and creative.

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



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



This [review](#) is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#).