

# Math 375, Pre-Calculus

**Instructor: Matt Nelsenador**

Course #18384, Spring 2026, 6 units

**Time:** MWF 9:30–11:35 AM, **Location:** CRC Main Campus SCI 215

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**Message phone:** 916–286–3691, then #, then 14222

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:15 PM

**Prerequisite:** Intermediate Algebra or the high school equivalent (such as Math 3 or Integrated Math 3) or higher with a C or better, or eligibility for transfer-level mathematics.

**Text:** <https://commons.libretexts.org/book/math-188266>

**Description of course:** This course provides a rigorous treatment of the foundational mathematical concepts and skills that will prepare students for the calculus sequence for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors. Topics include polynomial, absolute value, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, with graphing and applications; trigonometric functions and their inverses, including graphs, proving identities, trigonometric equations, and solving triangles; systems of equations and inequalities; analytic geometry and conics; vectors and polar coordinates; and an introduction to sequences and series. It emphasizes analytical reasoning and problem-solving.

## **Student Learning Outcomes:**

Analyze and investigate properties of functions.

Apply solution techniques to equations and interpret results.

Analyze conic sections.

Investigate sequences and series.

Investigate angular measure and trigonometric functions.

Graph trigonometric functions and use identities to solve trigonometric equations.

Use trigonometric identities.

Graph polar functions and parametric curves.

Use trigonometric functions in applications.

For a full list of Student Learning Outcomes, see the web site.

**Grades received are earned based on the performance standards outlined in this syllabus.**

## **Letter grades:**

Letter grades will probably be as follows

A: 680 to 800 points (85% and up)

B: 600 to 679 points (75% to 85%)

C: 520 to 599 points (65% to 75%)

D: 440 to 519 points (55% to 65%)

F: below 440 points (below 55%)

## **Grading:** (800 points possible)

Homework: 84 points

Quizzes: 165 points

Exams 1–4: 100 points each

Final: 151 points

**More on next page...**

**Dates to remember:**

Holiday (King)	Monday	1/19
First Day	Wednesday	1/21
Last day to drop with no notation	Sunday	2/1
Holiday (Lincoln)	Friday	2/13
Holiday (Washington)	Monday	2/16
Exam #1	Wednesday	2/18
Exam #2	Friday	3/13
Spring Break	M-F	3/16-3/20
Exam #3	Friday	4/10
Last day to withdraw (receive a "W")	Sunday	4/19
Exam #4	Friday	5/1
Last Regular Day	Wednesday	5/13
No class (Finals Week)	Friday	5/15
Final Exam	Monday	5/18 (10:15 AM – 12:15 PM)

**If you have a conflict with a test date, please see me as soon as possible.**

**Email distribution list:** I will send group emails to the Los Rios email addresses for all of you. If you choose, you may have your Los Rios email forwarded to another email. You should regularly check your Los Rios email and/or the email that your Los Rios email gets forwarded to. You may use a non-Los-Rios email to send email to me.

**Email in general:** Please send email anytime with questions or comments. I check email once or twice per day.

**Homework:** You learn math through your right arm.\*\* Homework will be due most Fridays. Homework will not be done online using MyMathLab. It will be problems from the book, turned in on paper. Please fold your homework vertically and write your name on the outside. Also, please staple. It's best to staple before coming to class. Please remove any paper scraps if you use notebook paper. Homework will be graded for completeness, **but you must show your work**. You may (and are encouraged) to work on homework with other students, but every student must turn in an individual assignment. Also, you are encouraged to come to office hours for HW help. There will be 14 homeworks during the term, 6 points each. So there are 84 points possible from homework. Late homework will earn no credit.

**Exams:** The exams will focus on only the most recent material. On exam days, there will be review for about 40 minutes. Then the test will take place in the next part of class. The **final exam** is two hours, and will cover the entire semester. Test problems will be similar in style to problems done in class and on homework. Tests will be closed book, closed notes. You do not get a page of notes. Calculators will be allowed on a minority of problems.

For exams, please turn off (or silence) and put away all noise-making and/or Internet devices, including phones and Internet watches. Also, students are not allowed to leave the room during an exam. If you leave the room, then you are done. Please be aware of this rule as you prepare for the exams.

Make-up exams will be given only for serious and compelling reasons (illness, jury duty, military duty, your wedding, etc. Please provide appropriate documentation.) If you are feeling ill before a test starts, let me know before the test starts. Additionally, make-up exams are allowed only if I am notified *before* the exam is given. Email works well. Makeup exams, if allowed, will probably be given the following Saturday or Tuesday, at 10AM, at Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento CA 95831.

\*\* or your left arm if you are left-handed.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will take place approximately daily, at the beginning of the class. Don't be late! There will be 33 quizzes during the term, 5 points each. So there are 165 points possible from quizzes.

**Calculators** will be allowed on some (a minority of) test and quiz problems. You will need an off-line calculator (not your phone) for this class, and you will want to bring it to class every day. I will attempt to classify the problems for which you will and will not need calculators. Please let me know if this ever becomes unclear to you. You do not need a graphing calculator. A simple scientific calculator is fine.

**Progress reports:** Progress reports will be provided with each graded exam. But the grading scheme is pretty simple, so you can probably keep track yourself. Divide the total earned points on graded assignments by the total points possible so far, to get your current percent, and compare to the percents on page one of this syllabus.

**Devices:** Please do not operate your phone or smartwatch during class. These devices are far too small to use for taking notes. Please silence your devices before entering the room, and put the phones away. Please do not use larger electronic devices for non-math activities.

**Attendance:** Coming to class is a really good idea in general. I totally recommend it.

**Tardiness** is disruptive to those students who have made the commitment to come to class on time, every day. I understand if you are late once or twice. Things happen. But I will speak individually to students who are chronically late (more than once per month). If you arrive late or re-enter class, please silently go behind the rest of the students to find a seat. If you leave during class, please silently go behind the rest of the students as you leave.

**Noise-related Behavior:**

- \* If you are going to cough or sneeze, please do it quietly.
- \* If you are going to bless someone's sneeze, please make sure that person is your neighbor. (If not, let the sneezer's neighbor have the honor. Give everyone a chance.)
- \* If you are going to crack your knuckles or any other body part,

# DON'T!

**Much of** the first few classes will be spent on logistical items, including but not limited to, taking roll, adding and dropping students, and getting to know each other. Please be patient. The math will start soon! **Also note that** this is a **6-unit class**. By college standards, the course requires 2 hours of outside work per week per unit. For this class, you are expected to work **12 hours per week** outside of class.

**Another quick note:** Bullying, intimidating, or abusing another student is not allowed and will not be tolerated.

**DSPS forms:** If you have an accommodation sheet, please notify me as soon as possible.

**Cheating policy:** Don't do it! Cheating will not be tolerated. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying during a test, using or providing unauthorized material (including a phone or online device, or a calculator for non-calculator problems) during a test, taking a test for someone else, allowing someone to take a test for you, talking during a test, altering a test and submitting it to be regraded, providing false information to an instructor or college official, forging my signature, etc. "Test" can mean test, quiz, or final. Students found guilty of cheating will be given a zero on that assignment (first time) or an F for the class (second time.) Cheating also includes copying homework answers from the book; sometimes it is clear that something has been copied. Also, no sharing calculators during exams or quizzes. This is cheating too, by both individuals.

**You are a now professional student**, and everyone benefits when we all act professionally. Behavior that disrupts the learning environment during class or in the classroom **will not be tolerated**. Repeat offenders may be asked to leave class for that day. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to: using an electronic device in the classroom, chatting with your neighbor while I am talking, any other unnecessary noise, obnoxious or disrespectful chatter, such as

"can you say that in English" or  
"are you really a teacher" or  
"this is useless" or  
"this class is the biggest joke" or  
"this is ridiculous" or similar,

using obscene or inappropriate language inside the classroom, being late excessively often, excessive trips in and out of the room, walking in front of other students as you move in or out the room during lecture, and personal hygiene, including nail work, eye work, ear work, etc.

**Suggestions for success:**

**Come to class, on time, every day.**

**Do your homework. Don't get behind.**

Read and keep this syllabus.

Study in groups, if that's your thing.

Read the book. There might be something really neat!

Write down and/or remember the things I say in class.

Don't divide by zero. Seriously. Don't do it.

**Food and drink rules:**

1) Nothing loud

2) No spills

3) Nothing comes out of your mouth

4) Absolutely no corn nuts!

**Other expectations:**

Ask a question if there's something you don't understand. I will answer your question in class or over email. If you don't ask, I don't know there's a problem. Please! Ask!

Seek additional help if you need it. Investigate your options at the Math Center on Main Campus and/or Elk Grove Center and/or online tutoring. Consider forming a study group with other students in class. Ask questions during lecture and come to my office hours.

(Free! Cheaper than a tutor.)

Work hard, and you'll probably pass the class.