

MATH 040x: Basic Mathematical Skills

Spring 2025—Section 39400

Lecture: WPH 107, MWF 9:00-9:50am

Discussion: DMC 258, Th 9:00-9:50am

INSTRUCTOR: Westley (Wes) Wise

Email: wwise@usc.edu

Office Hours: Tu 9:00-9:50am via Zoom; Th 10:00-10:50am in KAP 263

(RECOMMENDED) TEXTBOOK: *Intermediate Algebra* by Elayn Martin-Gay

ISBN: 9780134196176

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Review of Algebra. Real numbers, linear equations and inequalities, functions, graphs, systems of equations, exponents, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, radicals, quadratic equations and solutions, with emphasis on word problems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Develop the mathematical skills necessary to prepare students for MATH 108g (Contemporary Precalculus), MATH 114xg (Foundations of Statistics), and MATH 117g (Introduction to Mathematics for Business and Economics).

GRADING SCALE:

This course is CR/NC (credit or no credit). Students will receive a CR if they accumulate at least 1000 points.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Over the course of the semester, you will complete assignments to earn *points*. Your *score* will be the cumulative sum total of your earned points. Once you earn points, you cannot lose them. The total available points are as follows:

Assignment Type	Points
Homework	400
Worksheets	400
Midterm 1 + Retake 1	200
Midterm 2 + Retake 2	200
Extra Credit	100
Final Exam	400
<i>Total</i>	1700

ASSIGNMENTS:

- **Homework** will be assigned after each lecture via Gradescope, due 8am before the following lecture. Collaboration is allowed, but your final submission must be your own work.
- **Worksheets** will be completed in discussion each Thursday as detailed in the course schedule. Collaboration is highly encouraged, though each student will submit their own worksheet.
- **Midterms** will be in-person exams worth 200 points as detailed in the course schedule. Each midterm will have a *retake* also worth 200 points during the following week respectively, and will contain *similar* problems that cover the same course topics. For each course topic, the highest score between the midterm and the retake will be counted, for a total possible 200 points on each midterm and retake pair. That is, Midterm 1 + Retake 1 is worth 200 points and Midterm 2 + Retake 2 is worth 200 points.
- **Extra Credit** opportunities will be offered on sporadic lectures, consisting of a single problem concerning that lecture's material. Extra credit will be submitted with corresponding homework and will be clearly indicated in the assignment.
- **Final** will consist of an in-person exam on *Friday, May 9th from 8:00-10:00am* worth 300 points plus a review project worth 100 points, to be submitted at the start of the exam period.

COURSE POLICIES:

- *You are a person first and a student second.* If you have any extenuating circumstances interfering with your coursework, it is your responsibility to communicate those to me, and we can attempt to work through them.
- With the points grading structure, there will be *no late homework submissions or makeup worksheets*. Note it is possible to pass the course completing only 25% of either homework or worksheets.
- *No calculators* will be allowed on any in-person exams.
- All course material will be available on Brightspace, including lecture notes, assignments, and solutions.
- Gradescope will be the location for all graded assignments. Homework must be submitted to Gradescope by the deadline, and you must assign your solutions to their corresponding problems. *Failure to assign a solution to its corresponding question will result in a score of 0 for that problem.* Note that the deadline timer stops when you upload your file; you have as much time as you need to assign solutions to questions.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Wolfram Alpha is a useful online calculator for checking your work.
- Desmos is an online graphic calculator great for visualizing problems.
- Khan Academy includes some helpful videos and practice problems.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION:

Statement on Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form). This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the USC Student Handbook. All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

Academic dishonesty has a far-reaching impact and is considered a serious offense against the university. Violations will result in a grade penalty, such as a failing grade on the assignment or in the course, and disciplinary action from the university itself, such as suspension or even expulsion.

For more information about academic integrity see the student handbook or the Office of Academic Integrity's website, and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Statement on University Academic and Support Systems

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Student Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress:

To be eligible for certain kinds of financial aid, students are required to maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward their degree objectives. Visit the Financial Aid Office webpage for undergraduate- and graduate-level SAP eligibility requirements and the appeals process.

Support Systems:

- Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call
The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline consists of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.
- Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power- based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).
- Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086 Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.
- Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-2500
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.
- The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776
OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.
- USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 740-0411
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.
- USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

- USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call
Non-emergency assistance or information.
- Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.
- Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu
Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.