



# TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

## MATH 1314 College Algebra Syllabus

### College of Arts & Sciences

Department of Computational, Engineering, and  
Mathematical Sciences

Instructor:	Dr. Edward Duran
Office:	Hall 334
Office hours:	T 3-5 pm
(Or by appointment)	W 12:30 – 1:30 pm
	R 2 – 3 pm
e-mail:	eduran@tamusa.edu

### Catalog Description

In-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations using matrices. Additional topics such as sequences, series, probability, and conics may be included. This course meets the standards for the Mathematics category of courses under the core curriculum.

**Prerequisite:** Evidence of math equivalent to High School Algebra II ("C" or higher) or placement; Requires passing TSIA Math score.

**Textbook:** Online access code for College Algebra by Robert F. Blitzer (8th edition) with MyMathLab, Pearson Publishing,

- Access codes are available in Blackboard, through the Brytewave link.
- You will automatically be billed directly for your access code to your student account. Please see your instructor if you choose to opt out.

**Calculators:** A scientific non-graphing, non-programmable calculator is required; TI-30XIIS is recommended. No cell phone or graphing calculators will be allowed on exams, and online math utilities (e.g., Desmos) are also not allowed.

### Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will

1. Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of properties of functions, including domain and range, operations, compositions, and inverses.
2. Recognize and apply polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and solve and explain related equations.
3. Interpret and apply graphing techniques.
4. Evaluate all roots of higher degree polynomial and rational functions.
5. Recognize, solve, apply and explain systems of linear equations using matrices

MATH 1314 helps students develop critical thinking, communication, and empirical and quantitative skills by focusing on student understanding of key algebraic concepts and appropriate applications related to everyday experience.

### List of topics

1. Solving linear equations and applying models (1.2~1.3)
2. Complex numbers (1.4)
3. Solving quadratic, rational, and radical equations (1.2~ 1.5~1.6)
4. Solving linear and compound inequalities (1.7)
5. Solving absolute value equations and inequalities (1.6~1.7)
6. Distance formula and circles (2.8)
7. Functions and their graphs (2.1 ~ 2.2)
8. Linear functions and slope (2.3 ~ 2.4)
9. Transformations of functions and graphing (2.5)
10. Combinations and compositions of functions (2.6)
11. Inverse functions (2.7)
12. Quadratic functions and graphing (3.1)
13. Polynomial functions and graphing (3.2)
14. Zeros of polynomial functions (3.3 ~ 3.4)
15. Rational functions and graphing (3.5)
16. Introduction to polynomial and rational inequalities (3.6)
17. Direct, inverse, and combined variation (3.7)
18. Exponential and logarithmic functions (4.1 ~ 4.2)
19. Properties of logarithms: solving exponential and logarithmic equations (4.3 ~ 4.4)
20. Applications with log and exponential functions (4.4 ~ 4.5)
21. Systems of linear and non-linear equations and matrices (5.1 ~ 5.2, 5.4 and 6.1)
22. More on solutions of systems of linear equations (6.2 and 6.5)
23. Properties of matrices (6.3)
24. Introduction to sequences and series (8.1~8.3)

### Assignment values

Graded Quizzes	17%	(Lowest dropped)
Homework	8%	(Lowest dropped)

### Grading scheme

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%

Exams	$3 \times 15\% = 45\%$	
Final Exam	30%	
Total	100%	

C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	Below 60%

## ***Class policies and expectations***

### Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend lectures. Be aware of what has been covered in every class, including any announcements and course policy changes made in class. Announcements and changes will also be communicated through Blackboard. You are welcome to ask questions during my office hours; however, it is your responsibility to learn the material.

### Midterm Exams (40% total)

There will be three proctored midterm exams during the semester and one final exam. Students are expected to schedule their exams to be taken at the testing center.

The lowest score on a midterm exam may be replaced by the final exam score if the final exam score is the higher score.

In case you miss an exam or find out that you will miss an exam, you should contact me either in person or by e-mail, at least one week in advance of the exam for non-emergency cases or within 24-hrs of the scheduled exam date for emergency cases. Any missed exam counts as a 0 unless the student has a valid documented excuse and contacts me as soon as possible after the excuse for missing the test arises.

Examples of valid documented excuses are sickness documented with a doctor's note, death in the family documented with a copy of the death notice, attending university-sponsored events with a Dean's excuse, etc. Minor headaches or attending sports events (without Dean's excuse) are not examples of emergency situations.

### Final exam (30%)

To pass this class, students must take the comprehensive final exam scheduled during Finals Week. The exam will cover topics from throughout the semester. Final exams cannot be rescheduled or missed (for dire and unforeseen medical or family emergencies, students must consult with the instructor). The proctored final exam will be held in-class on the date listed above.

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### Quizzes and labs (20%)

A combination of group and individual quizzes will be given throughout the semester during the recitation. Your lowest quiz or lab grade will be dropped. There will be no make-up quizzes or labs.

### Online homework (10%)

Homework will be assigned regularly with MyMathLab (MML). All due dates are listed in MML. The exercises can be attempted multiple times to increase the grade. MyMathLab can be accessed through a link on the Blackboard page or directly at [mlm.pearson.com](http://mlm.pearson.com). You will need an access code that has been sent to you via Brytewave. Please check your student email OR look for the Brytewave link in your Blackboard course to find your access code. Read the announcements in Blackboard for all instructions.

### Class rules

1. Regular participation and attendance is critical in this class! Enrolling in a college-level math course means a college-level workload. Your instructor may give unannounced assignments during class.
2. Please do not ask me to extend the due dates. Work ahead on the assignments instead (remember... if something can go wrong, it will).
3. If you need additional help, please ask! Your instructor is available to help, and students also have access to free tutoring through Jaguar Tutoring in the ALC, located in the Central Academic Building, second floor. I will be available during office hours or by appointment.

Contact me by email at [eduran@tamusa.edu](mailto:eduran@tamusa.edu).

## ***IMPORTANT POLICIES AND RESOURCES***

**Academic Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to providing all students with reasonable access to learning opportunities and accommodations in accordance with The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, Disability Support Services is located in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us <https://www.tamusa.edu/Disability-Support-Services/index.html> or email us at [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability-related needs with Disability Support Services as soon as possible.

**Academic Learning Center:** The Academic Learning Center provides free course-based tutoring to all currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. Students wishing to work with a tutor can make appointments through the Brainfuse online tutoring platform. Brainfuse can be accessed in the Tools section of Blackboard. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu), calling (210) 784-1307, or visiting the Central Academic Building, room 202.

**Counseling/Mental Health Resources:** As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and negatively impact your daily functioning. If you are experiencing emotional difficulties or mental health concerns, support is available to you through the Student Counseling Center (SCC). To schedule an appointment, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120.

All mental health services provided by the SCC are free and confidential (as the law allows). The Student Counseling Center provides brief individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information on SCC services visit <http://tamusa.edu/studentcounseling>

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331.

Additionally, the TELUS Student Support App provides a variety of mental health resources to including support for in the moment distress, an anonymous peer-to-peer support network, mental health screenings, podcasts, and articles to improve your mental wellbeing.

**Emergency Preparedness:** JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification system. In the event of an emergency, such as inclement weather, students, staff and faculty, who are registered, will have the option to receive a text message, email with instructions and updates. To register or update your information visit: <https://tamusa.bbcportal.com/>. More information about Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan can be found here.

Download the SafeZone App (<https://safezoneapp.com/>) for emergencies or call (210) 784-1911. Non-Emergency (210) 784-1900.

**Financial Aid and Verification of Attendance:** According to the following federal regulation, 34 CFR 668.21: U.S. Department of Education (DoE) Title IV regulation, a student can only receive Title IV funds based on Title IV eligibility criteria which include class attendance. If Title IV funds are disbursed to ineligible students (including students who fail to begin attendance), the institution must return these funds to the U.S. DoE within 30 days of becoming aware that the student will not or has not begun attendance. Faculty will provide the Office of Financial Aid with an electronic notification if a student has not attended by the published Census Date (the first week of class). Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend prior to the published Census Date (the first week of class) will have their aid terminated and returned to the DoE. Please note that any student who stops attending at any time during the semester may also need to return a portion of their federal aid.

**Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center:** The Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center supports graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. Our language tutors support students enrolled in Spanish courses and students composing in Spanish for any assignment. Our digital studio tutors support students working on digital projects such as eportfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects. Students can schedule appointments through JagWire under the Student Services tab. Click on "Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center" to make your appointment. The Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics>.

**Meeting Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to submit a CARE referral (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities/file-a-report.html>) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to direct you to available resources.

**Military Affairs:** Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to visit the Office of Military Affairs for any question involving federal or state VA Education Benefits. Visit the Patriots' Casa building, room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military.va@tamusa.edu](mailto:military.va@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

**Religious Observances:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided with an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or course work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

**The Six-Drop Rule:** Students are subject to the requirements of Senate Bill (SB) 1231 passed by the Texas Legislature in 2007. SB 1231 limits students to a maximum of six (6) non-punitive course drops (i.e., courses a student chooses to drop) during their undergraduate careers. A non-punitive drop does not affect the student's GPA. However, course drops that exceed the maximum allowed by SB 1231 will be treated as "F" grades and will impact the student's GPA.

**Statement of Harassment and Discrimination:** Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equal opportunity, and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality and the uniqueness of the individual on our campus and within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees are to be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the University's Civil Rights Officer at 210-784-2061 or [titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto:titleix@tamusa.edu).

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking based on sex, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio's Title IX Coordinator can support those impacted by such conduct in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the Title IX Coordinator. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and trained victim advocates) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment, sexual violence, or other related sex-based misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@tamusa.edu, 210-784-2061, CAB 439K). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting requirement, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331 or visit them in Madla 120.

**Pregnant/Parenting Students:** Texas A&M-San Antonio does not require a pregnant or parenting student, solely because of that status or issues related to that status, to (1) take a leave of absence or withdraw from their degree or certificate program; (2) limit the student's studies; (3) participate in an alternative program; (4) change the student's major, degree, or certificate program; or (5) refrain from joining or cease participating in any course, activity, or program at the University. The university will provide such reasonable modifications to pregnant students as would be provided to a student with temporary medical condition that are related to the health and safety of the student and the student's unborn child. These could include maintaining a safe distance from substances, areas, and activities known to be hazardous to pregnant individuals and their unborn child; excused absences because of illness or medical appointments; modified due dates for assignments; rescheduled tests/exams; taking a leave of absence; and being provided access to instructional materials and video recordings of lectures for excused absences, if these would be provided to any other student with an excused absence. Pregnant/parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator with any questions or concerns related to their status (titleix@tamusa.edu; 210-784-2061; CAB 439K). Texas A&M-San Antonio has also designated the Title IX Coordinator as the liaison officer for current or incoming students who are the parent or guardian of a child younger than 18 years of age. The Title IX Coordinator can provide students with information regarding support services and other resources.

**Young Jaguars:** can support parenting students with daycare who meet this criteria: Must be enrolled in classes at TAMUSA in the current semester. Must be Pell eligible or a single parent. They serve children ages 3 to 12-years-old. Children must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. youngjaguars@tamusa.edu (210) 784-2636

**Students' Rights and Responsibilities:** The following statement of students' rights and responsibilities is intended to reflect the philosophical base upon which University Student Rules are built. This philosophy acknowledges the existence of both rights and responsibilities, which is inherent to an individual not only as a student at Texas A&M University-San Antonio but also as a citizen of this country.

#### Students' Rights

1. A student shall have the right to participate in a free exchange of ideas, and there shall be no University rule or administrative rule that in any way abridges the rights of freedom of speech, expression, petition and peaceful assembly as set forth in the U.S. Constitution.
2. Each student shall have the right to participate in all areas and activities of the University, free from any form of discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and pregnancy/parenting or veteran status in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
3. A student has the right to personal privacy except as otherwise provided by law, and this will be observed by students and University authorities alike.
4. Each student subject to disciplinary action arising from violations of university students' rules shall be assured a fundamentally fair process.

#### **Students' Responsibilities**

1. A student has the responsibility to respect the rights and property of others, including other students, the faculty, and administration.
2. A student has the responsibility to be fully acquainted with the published University Student Rules found in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct, on our website, and University Catalog, and to comply with them, as well as with federal, state, and local laws.
3. A student has the responsibility to recognize that student actions reflect upon the individuals involved and upon the entire University community.
4. A student has the responsibility to recognize the University's obligation to provide a safe environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notifications.

We expect that students will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or disability. Conduct that infringes on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Students are expected to exhibit a high level of honesty and integrity in their pursuit of higher education. Students engaging in an act that violates the standards of academic integrity will find themselves facing academic and/or disciplinary sanctions. Academic misconduct

is any act, or attempt, which gives an unfair advantage to the student. Additionally, any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion may be considered as academic misconduct. For more information on academic misconduct policies and procedures please review the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/documents/Student-Handbook-2022-23.pdf>) or visit the resources available in the OSRR website (<https://www.tamusa.edu/university-policies/student-rights-and-responsibilities/academic-integrity.html>).

**AI Policy:** There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be asked to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools to explore how they can be used. Outside of those circumstances, you should not use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any student work (assignments, activities, discussion responses, etc.) that is part of your evaluation in this course. Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate with attribution what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, students should reach out to their instructor for clarification before submitting work for grading. Use of AI-generated content without the instructor's permission and/or proper attribution in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

NOTE: Guidance for how to cite AI-generators, like ChatGPT, can be found here <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

**Important Dates:** Fall 2025 Regular 16-Week Session

August	September	November	December
Aug-25 First day of class	Sep-1 Labor Day Holiday— No class	Nov-14 Last day to drop with automatic W	Dec-4 Last day of classes
	Sep-10 Census date	Nov-25 Last day to withdraw from university	Dec-5 Study day—No class
		Nov-26 Study day—No class	Dec-6—12 Final exams
		Nov-27—29 Thanksgiving holiday—No class	Dec-16 Commencement

The complete academic calendar is available online: <https://www.tamusa.edu/academics/academic-calendar/index.html>