



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
SAN ANTONIO

## MATH 2312-003 Pre-Calculus

Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Mr. John Scott

**E-mail:** jscott@tamusa.edu  
(preferred contact method)

**Phone:** (210) 784-2279

**Lecture meeting:** MW 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm in Science and Technology Building (STEM), Room 105

**Office:** Classroom Hall Building, Room 314Y

**Student hours:** Monday 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm in STEM 161  
Tuesday 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm in STEM 179  
Wednesday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm in STEM 161  
Thursday 11:00 am - 12:00 pm STEM 179  
Friday 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm in STEM 161  
Other times are available by appointment (held in my office, HALL 314Y).

**Credit hours:** 3 credits

### Course Description and Materials

**Catalog Description:** In-depth combined study of algebra, trigonometry, and other topics for calculus readiness. This course meets the standards for the Mathematics category of courses under the core curriculum and addresses the following required objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, and Empirical and Quantitative Skills.

**Prerequisite:** MATH 1314 College Algebra with a grade of “C” or higher, or placement

**Required Textbook:** Precalculus Essentials by Robert F. Blitzer, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed., with MyMathLab, Pearson Publishing, 2022, ISBN 9780136921745. (E-book package as part of course registration.)

**Calculators:** Basic scientific calculators (non-graphing, non-programmable) are permitted on quizzes and exams. A TI-30XIIS scientific calculator is highly recommended. Cell phones, graphing calculators, and online math utilities are not allowed on quizzes or exams. When appropriate, more advanced calculators and software may be used on homework assignments and during class discussion.

**Student Learner Objectives:** MATH 2312 helps students develop critical thinking, communication, and empirical and quantitative skills by focusing on student understanding of key mathematical concepts required for calculus readiness to include recognizing, identifying, solving, analyzing, explaining, and appropriately modeling applicable real-world situations.

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding and knowledge of properties of functions from graphical, tabular, symbolic, or verbal representations.

2. Identify and apply appropriate strategies for solving equations involving algebraic, transcendental, and trigonometric functions.
3. Interpret and apply graphing techniques to algebraic and transcendental functions.
4. Compute and apply the values of trigonometric functions for key angles in all quadrants of the unit circle measured in both degrees and radians.
5. Prove and apply trigonometric identities.
6. Interpret and solve applications related to right and oblique triangles.

**List of Topics:** Topics to be covered include but are not limited to the following:

1. Factoring and simplifying algebraic expressions
2. Functions and their graphs
3. Exponential and logarithmic functions, and their properties
4. Exponential and logarithmic equations with applications
5. Angles and their measures
6. Trigonometric functions and right triangle trigonometry
7. Trigonometric functions of any angle
8. Graphs of sine, cosine, and other trigonometric functions
9. Inverse functions and inverse trigonometric functions
10. Applications of trigonometric Functions
11. Trigonometric identities
12. Trigonometric equations
13. The laws of sines and cosines
14. Polar coordinates and graphs of polar equations
15. Vectors and dot product
16. Linear, polynomial, and rational functions
17. Circles and polar coordinates

The instructor reserves the right to modify/update the topics as appropriate.

### Grading Policy

The final course grade for both MATH 2312 is calculated as follows:

MyMathLab Homework: 15%;      Quizzes/Other Assignments: 15%;      Exams: 45% (15% each);  
Final Exam: 25%;

Course grades awarded as follows:

A: 90 ~ 100%; B: 80 ~ 89.9%; C: 70 ~ 79.9%; D: 60 ~ 69.9%; F: less than 59.9%.

$$\text{Final Grade} = 15\% \times \text{HW} + 15\% \times \text{avg of Quizzes} \\ + 15\% \times (\text{Exam 1} + \text{Exam 2} + \text{Exam 3}) + 25\% \times \text{Final Exam}$$

**Homework:** Homework will be assigned regularly with MyMathLab (MML). All due dates are listed in MML. The exercises can be attempted multiple times in order 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). Students are also encouraged to practice writing solutions and will be responsible for knowing how to write clear, justified solutions on quizzes and exams.

**Quizzes:** Ten short quizzes (10-20 min.) will be given throughout the semester (6 during class and 4 online outside of class). Your top eight scores will count toward your grade. There will be no make-up quizzes.

**Midterm Exams:** There will be three in-class exams during the semester. The tentative dates are February 14, March 27, and April 24. 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:** In order to pass this class, students must take the 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 me).

### **Class Policies and Expectations**

The following policies and expectations have been established for this course to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Please bring any concerns you may have to my attention.

1. Students are expected to arrive and be ready to start class on time and stay for the entire class period. Please refrain from leaving during class or packing up belongings early. If you know ahead of time that you will need to leave class early, please inform me before class. If you need to leave suddenly during class, please follow up with me by email after class.
2. Students are expected to participate in discussions, in-class exercises, quizzes and problem presentation. During lecture, class discussions, or group discussions, students should give their attention to the speaker(s) and contribute to the conversation. Students can earn up to 5 points (added to exam scores) based on their level of participation.
3. The use of phones or other electronic devices for non-class related activities is not allowed. Students may use laptops or tablets for note-taking and may also use assistive technology and record, but not as a substitute for note-taking. If a student needs to remain in phone contact with others outside of the classroom due to an ongoing situation, please notify me in advance. In such circumstances, it may be better to be absent from class.
4. Please refrain from bringing food or drinks to class. If needed, water or small snacks are permitted as long as they are not a distraction (not noisy, fragrant, messy, etc.).

Students unable to follow these policies will be referred to the Dean of Students and/or asked to drop the class.

### **University Policies and Resources**

Academic Accommodations for Persons 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, please contact Disability Support Services in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210, or at (210) 784-1335 or visit <https://www.tamusa.edu/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 and their instructors 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/or 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.

Crisis support is available 24/7 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 (after-hours select option '2'). For more information and self-help resources, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

Emergency Preparedness: JagE Alert is Texas A&M University-San Antonio's mass notification. 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: <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-operations-plan.pdf> and <https://www.tamusa.edu/about-us/campus-information/safety/university-police-department/documents/emergency-action-plan.pdf>

Download the SafeZone App 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 the first week of class. Any student receiving federal financial aid who does not attend 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://bit.ly/WLDCCenter>.

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 contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

Military Affairs: Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person 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 an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or 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, equality of 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 within our state, nation, and world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should 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, gender identity, gender expression, or pregnancy/parenting status. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

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, 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 or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator ([titleix@tamusa.edu](mailto: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 reasonable accommodations to pregnant students that would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition and 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](mailto: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.

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, 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 student 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, University Catalog and to comply with them, as well as 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 an environment for learning.
5. A student has the responsibility to check their university email for any updates or official university notification.

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. Behaviors that infringe 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](#).

No Use of Generative AI Permitted: MATH 2312 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated by the students themselves, working individually or in groups. Students should not have another person/entity do the writing of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write assignments and/or using artificial intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT. Use of any AI-generated content in this course qualifies as academic dishonesty and violates Texas A&M-San Antonio's standards of academic integrity.

Important Dates:

January 16	First day of classes
March 11-17	Spring Break – No classes
March 29	Study Day – No classes
April 13	Last day to drop with an automatic “W”
April 20	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the University
April 29	Last day of classes
April 30	Study Day – No classes
May 1-7	Final exams

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