



Department of Computational, Engineering, and Mathematical Sciences

## MATH 1314: College Algebra, Section 001 Spring 2026

**Instructor:** Dr. Qi Han

**Class Meeting:** MWF 1:00-1:50pm

**Classroom:** Classroom Hall 206

**E-mail:** [qhan@tamusa.edu](mailto:qhan@tamusa.edu)

<https://apps.tamusa.edu/course-information/my-profile/faculty-Profile.php?ID=358>

**Office Hours:** MW 2:00-3:00pm, F 8:30-10:30am, and/or via email

Or by appointment via email, read regularly between 8:30am~8:30pm

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Office Phone:** (210) 784-2262

**Office:** Classroom Hall 314P

**Recitation [Instructor: Horace Deans ([hdeans@tamusa.edu](mailto:hdeans@tamusa.edu))]**

**Class Meeting:** M 12:00-12:50pm

**Classroom:** Classroom Hall 206

### Course Description and Materials

**Catalog Description:** In-depth study and applications of polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions, and systems of equations by 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 mathematics equivalent to High School Algebra II with “C” or above, or placement.

**Note.** This course is only offered to students who have passed TSIA Mathematics test.

**Required Textbook:** College Algebra by Robert F. Blitzer (8<sup>th</sup> edition) with MyMathLab. Pearson Publishing with ISBN 9780136970613 (E-book included with access code).

**Calculator:** A non-graphing, non-programmable scientific calculator is required and allowed on all exams. No cell phone calculator, graphic calculator, or any online mathematics utility (e.g., Desmos) can be allowed. A TI-30XIIS scientific calculator is highly recommended.

**Student Learner Objectives:** Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

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.

**Note.** 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:** Topics to be covered include but are not limited to the following:

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

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

**NOTE.** The class meets three times a week. Aside from the three hours that you spend in class each week, you should devote another 4~6 hours to studying on your own: reading the book and lecture notes, working out homework assignments, and solving extra problems for practice etc. You are responsible for all materials/topics discussed in this class.

### Course Expectations and Requirements

**Class Attendance:** You are expected to attend classes regularly and be prepared to participate in many in-class discussions, exercises, and problem presentation. Class attendance is taken at the beginning/at the end of each class. You are strongly encouraged to attend all classes. If an unavoidable situation prevents you from being on time or if you must leave early, please minimize class interruption. Be aware of what has been covered in each class, and any course policy changes or announcements made in class. Announcements and course policy changes will also be communicated through Blackboard postings. You are welcome to ask questions during my office hours; however, it is solely your responsibility to learn the materials.

**Inquiry-Based Active Learning:** This course implements inquiry-based active learning approaches throughout, and you are strongly encouraged to preview the teaching materials and be aware of many class-participation and self/peer-study activities.

**Examinations:** There are three midterm tests on some Mondays during the semester, and one comprehensive final exam in the end to be scheduled during the Finals Week.

You will take all examinations at regularly scheduled times. Exceptions for a legitimate reason may be granted by and must be approved by the instructor beforehand. You should notify (or under certain unusual circumstances have other(s) to notify) the instructor formally that you will miss, or have missed an exam, and provide a reason, with accompanying documents supporting that, for your absence within 24hrs of the scheduled exam date. Your instructor can be notified by e-mail. Contact beforehand your instructor to make necessary arrangement, if you know in advance that you will be unable to take an exam at the regular class time. Anyone of you who fail to follow the procedure will receive a **GRADE OF ZERO** on the missed exam.

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

Test 1 covers Chapters 1~2 (only selected important topics).

Test 2 covers Chapter 3 (only selected important topics).

Test 3 covers Chapters 4~6 (only selected important topics).

Final exam covers Chapters 1~6 (only selected important topics).

Final exam schedule is available at

**TBA**

**NOTE.** Schedules will be announced at least a week ahead of time in class, in Blackboard, and through emails. The tests/exam will be taken in class. Calculators (except for non-graphing, non-programmable scientific calculators), cell phones, laptops, i-pads, kindles, and any other electronic devices are **NOT** allowed during the tests/final exam. Once found, the tests/final exam would receive a **GRADE OF ZERO**, and if this happened in a recursive manner, the instructor would report to the university as an academic dishonesty issue.

**Retake/Make-up:** Each one of you may have exactly one opportunity during the Finals Week to retake/make up either Test I, or Test II, or Test III (only 1 of the 3). **The instructor reserves the right to modify/update this specific policy as appropriate.** Nevertheless, the **Final Exam** cannot be rescheduled or made-up (for dire, or unforeseen medical or family emergencies, you must consult with the instructor/Dean of Student and abide by the university policy); if you missed the **Final Exam**, you cannot pass this class.

**Exercises:** There is a 20~25 minutes in-class exercise set emphasizing the most recently covered topics roughly each week on Fridays, and there will be 8~10 in total. **NO** make-up/retake on exercises; your highest midterm test score may be used to replace your lowest exercise grade.

**Quizzes:** There is a 20~25 minutes weekly in-class quiz in your Monday recitations, managed by Horace Deans if there is no midterm test, and there will be 8~10 in total. **NO** make-up/retake on quizzes; your highest midterm test score may be used to replace your lowest quiz grade.

**Assignments:** Homework will be assigned after each section of the textbook and is expected to be submitted by the posted due date. Late submissions will receive partial credits only. If you cannot finish all the problems, please finish as many as possible. **NO** credit for merely having the correct answer. You are welcome to have group/team discussions on homework problems, but you must write up solutions on your own and truly understand the underlying mathematics and algorithms. Be mindful of your academic integrity.

**Evaluation of Student Performance:** Your grade will be based entirely on your performance. You will not compete against one another for grades.

### Grading Policy

HWs: 10%   Exercises: 10%   Quizzes: 10%   Tests 1-3: 15% each   Final Exam: 25%

A = 90~100%   B = 80~89.9%   C = 70~79.9%   D = 60~69.9%   F = 0~59.9%

Support portion: 60~100% = Credit   0~59% = **NO** Credit

**NOTE.** The final course grade utilizes a **weighted** average. Please do **NOT** simply take the average of all the grades posted on Blackboard as your final grade. A helpful link is <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/how-to-calculate-weighted-average>

**NOTE.** The instructor reserves the right to modify/update the information of this syllabus as appropriate.

### No Use of Generative AI Permitted

This 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.

# Texas A&M University San Antonio Important Policies and Resources



## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SAN ANTONIO

### University Email Policy and Course Communications

All correspondence between professors and students must occur via university email accounts. You must have your Jaguar email account ready and working. If it is not working, contact the help desk at [helpdesk@tamusa.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamusa.edu) or at 210-784-HELP (4357). If you don't hear back within 48 hours, contact them again. They have many requests during the first part of the semester, so you may need to follow up with them.

### 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 in the Central Academic Building, Suite 210. You can also contact us via phone at (210) 784-1335, visit us at the website 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 academic accommodation with Disability Support Services and their instructors as soon as possible.

### Academic Learning Center

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. 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. Online tutoring is also available for after hours and weekend assistance.

While tutoring hours may change based on tutor schedules and availability, the current tutoring hours for MATH in the ALC are as follows:

Day of the Week	Appointments Available	Walk-in Tutoring (no appointment needed)
Monday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Tuesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

## 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, visit our website, call 210-784-1331 or visit Madla 120 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

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 24/7/365 by calling the SCC at 210-784-1331 or through the TELUS student support App.

The [TELUS Student Support App](#) provides a variety of mental health resources to include 24/7/365 support for in the moment distress, crisis support, 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 the [Jag E Alert System website](#). You can access more information about [Emergency Operations Plan and the Emergency Action Plan on our website](#). 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 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.

## Jaguar Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center (WLDCC)

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges as well as faculty and staff. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, 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 e-portfolios, class presentations, or other digital multimedia projects.

The Writing Center offers face-to-face, synchronous online, and asynchronous digital appointments. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the **Student Services tab**. Click on **Writing, Language, and Digital Composing Center** to make your appointment. Students wanting to work in real time with a tutor can schedule an **Online Appointment**. Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an **e-Tutoring appointment**. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on the [Writing Center's website](#). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing: [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

## 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 report for support](#). Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to

direct you to available resources. The [General's Store is a food pantry](#) that is available on campus as well.

## 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 wide variety 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, based on 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. If you have experienced any form of sex 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](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 accommodation for pregnant students as it would be provided to a student with a temporary medical condition that is 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. Young Jaguars can support parenting students with daycare if students meet this criteria: (1) must be enrolled in classes at Texas A&M-San Antonio in the current semester, (2) must be Pell eligible or a single parent, (3) child(ren) must be aged 3 to 12-years-old, and (4) child(ren) must be enrolled in Pre-K-3 through 6th grade. For more information, please contact Young Jaguars at [youngjaguars@tamusa.edu](mailto:youngjaguars@tamusa.edu) or call (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, 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.

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](#) or visit the resources available in the [OSRR website](#).

## Important Spring 2026 Dates

Dates	Event
January 13	Tuition and Fee Payments deadline
January 19	Marting Luther King Jr. Day – No Classes
January 20	First Day of Class
February 4	Census Date
March 6-23	Midterm grading period
March 9-14	Spring Break
April 3	Study Day – No classes
April 17	Last day to drop with an automatic withdrawal
May 1	Last day to drop a course or withdraw from the university
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 5	Study Day – No classes
May 6-12	Final Exams
May 19	Commencement

The complete [Academic Calendar](#) as available on our website.