Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The California Open Educational Resources Council has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks using a rubric. Faculty received a stipend for their efforts and funding was provided by the State of California, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Textbook Name:

Apex Calculus 3.0
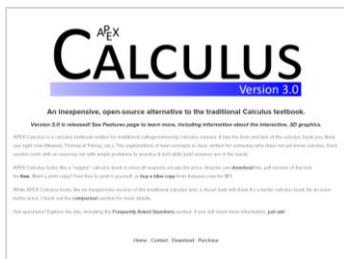
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Institution:

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Title/Position:

Professor

Format Reviewed:

Online

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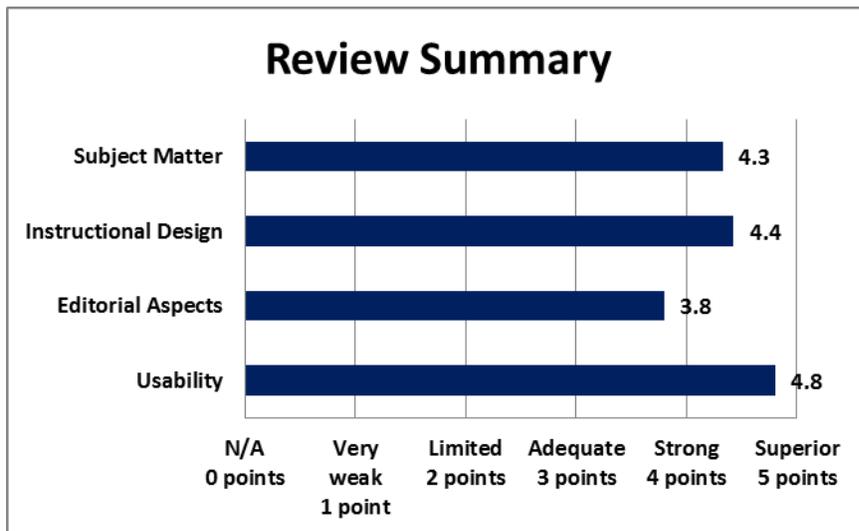
Date Reviewed:

December 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric
CA Course ID: MATH 220

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?					X	
Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?					X	
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?						X
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?					X	
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?						X
Does the textbook present its subject matter in a					X	

culturally sensitive manner? (e.g. Is the textbook free of offensive and insensitive examples? Does it include examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds?)						

Total Points: 26 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:

- I think that this ebook is good for math major, although it does not really deal with the differential equations which the math. Major students could learn from separated courses on differential equations later on.
- I like the way it deals with the indefinite integrals. It gives sufficient examples in that aspect.
- It also put the two major technics: substitutions and integration by parts, next to each other that the students would know that they are important before the other ones.
- It also gives enough examples in indefinite integrals, substitutions and integration by parts. These are the foundations of integration.
- However, it does not talk very much about the transcendental functions that it does not fit in either the "early transcendental" or "late transcendental". Even so, for the early transcendental program, people only put the transcendental functions as a chapter in Calculus I and therefore, this mostly does not affect this ebook to be a good book for the Calculus II. It assumes that the students already master the material of transcendental functions before this course.
- If the instructors need the material from the transcendental functions or the ordinary differential equations, they might provide some additional reference book or books to their students.

Instructional Design (35 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Does the textbook present its subject materials at appropriate reading levels for undergrad use?						X
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)				X		
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?					X	
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?						X
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?						X
Does the textbook contain sufficient effective ancillary materials? (e.g. test banks, individual and/or group activities or exercises, pedagogical apparatus, etc.)					X	
Is the textbook searchable?						X

Total Points: 31 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:

- I like the way the authors handle some integrals of trigonometric functions in the substitutions then later on they generalize these methods in the special sections dealing with the trigonometric integration.

Editorial Aspects (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the language of the textbook free of grammatical, spelling, usage, and typographical errors?					X	
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?						X
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages latid0out and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)						X
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)						X
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)	X					

Total Points: 19 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook:

- Personally, I think that editor efforts are good although I might more prefer to use the numbering system

for each section instead of the whole book, in which you get big numbers.

Usability (25 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
Is the textbook compatible with standard and commonly available hardware/software in college/university campus student computer labs?						X
Is the textbook accessible in a variety of different electronic formats? (e.g. .txt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)						X
Can the textbook be printed easily?						X
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?						X
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?					X	

Total Points: 24 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook:
- Numbering by each section might be easier for instructors to use.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at all (0 pts)	Very Weak (1 pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3 pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
What is your overall impression of the textbook?					X	
	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?						X

Total Points: 9 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?
- I like the integration part. You do not need to deal with the transcendental function specially and that might save your time although you might add some material yourselves if it is needed.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?
- According to American culture, one better put something related to the nature log in the text.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the textbook site in MERLOT
(Please register in MERLOT to post your feedback.)

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For questions or more information, contact the CA Open Educational Resources Council.