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:

Precalculus

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Textbook Authors:
Carl Stitz and Jeff Zeager

Reviewed by:
Amy Vu

Institution:
West Valley College

Title/Position:
Professor

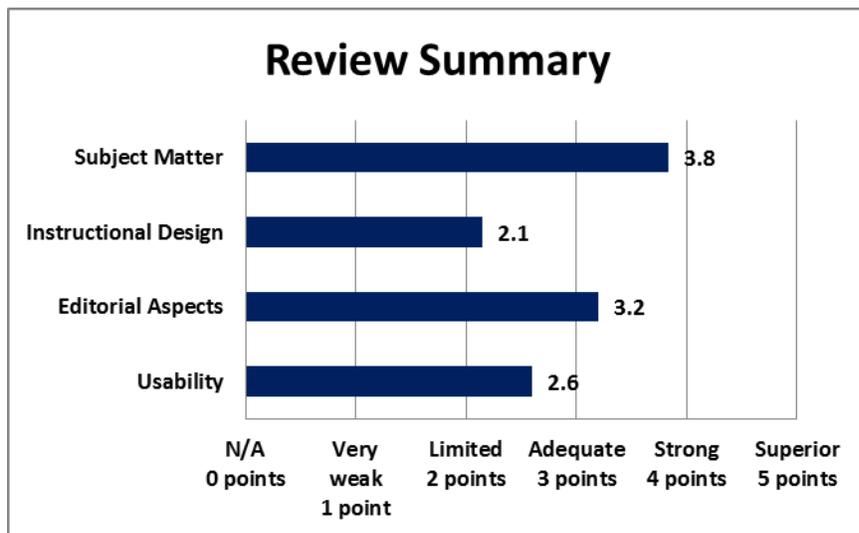Format Reviewed:
Online
A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:
August 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: MATH 155

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		

	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
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 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?)						X

Total Points: 23 out of 30

Please provide comments on any aspect of the subject matter of this textbook:
- All of the course objectives in the C-ID descriptor for precalculus are covered in this textbook.
- The authors presented it in a clear and concise manner.
- The examples are explained thoroughly.
- There are a great deal of application problems at the end of each section for the instructor to choose from.
- Sasquatch problems are found throughout the textbook.

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: 15 out of 35

Please provide comments on any aspect of the instructional design of this textbook:
- Learning styles: Graphs and figures are presented throughout the textbook for visual learners. All the graphs are in black and white. Other than the mathematical graphs and figures, no other visuals are used in this text.

- Learning outcomes: All the topics in the C-ID descriptor outline are covered in this textbook. However, learning outcomes are not presented.

- Ancillaries: There are a good number of exercises at the end of each section, with plenty of application problems. Other than the exercises, there are no other ancillaries.

- Searchability: You can use CTRL-F in Windows to search the PDF document. The table of contents is hyperlinked to take you to the appropriate section. The page numbers in the index are also hyperlinked.

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	

	N/A	Very Weak	Limited	Adequate	Strong	Superior
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)				X		

Total Points: 16 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- There is a flow in the textbook. The authors show good use of transition sentences to move from one topic to the next. Throughout the text, there are hyperlinks that take you to different sections of the text where the topic is discussed further. Some hyperlinks take you to a web site to learn more.

- Other than the hyperlinks (presented using blue text), the entire textbook uses grayscale. Definitions, theorems, and equations are in grey boxes. Everything else is in black and white.

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: 13 out of 25

Please provide comments on any aspect of access concerning this textbook.

- This textbook can only be downloaded in PDF format. Most computers today have some sort of PDF reader and can be easily printed in PDF form. This file can only be edited or commented on if the user has a PDF editor installed.

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: 6 out of 10

Overall Comments

If you were to recommend this textbook to colleagues, what merits of the textbook would you highlight?

- This textbook is well-written and easy to read. There are lots of fun and interesting application problems in the examples and exercises.

What areas of this textbook require improvement in order for it to be used in your courses?

- There are no ancillaries for this textbook.
- A solutions manual would help.

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.