

MAT120 Precalculus Essentials

Instructor: Dr. McDaniel 632-2147 mcdanmic@aquinas.edu

Office location: basement of Academic Building, across from the Mailroom, number AB50D.

Textbook: *Precalculus* 4th ed by Dugopolski, (Pearson). We do the book.

Calculator: TI-83 or TI-84 will match what we use in class.

	M	T	W	TH	F
8:00 - 9:10	MAT122 AB114		MAT122		MAT122
9:20 - 10:30	MAT120 AB114		MAT120		MAT120
10:40 - 11:50	MAT305 AB114		MAT305		MAT305
12:00 - 1:15	Office		Office		Office
1:20-2:30	MAT105 AB114		MAT105		MAT105

Successful students attend class. A missed grade counts as zero.

Quizzes and tests occur during class; expect one of each per chapter. Hand-in assignments count as quizzes. The final grade is 30% quiz average plus 50% test average plus 20% of the final exam. The letter grades follow the 80 - 82 B-, 83 - 86 B, 87 - 89 B+ pattern.

You will need to use your graphing calculator every class.

Rough Calendar

Equations and inequalities using first and second degree variables (Chapter

1) January

Functions and inverses (Chapter 2) January

Polynomials and rational functions (Chapter 3) February

Exponentials and logs (Chapter 4) February

Trig (Chapters 5 - 7) March/April

Systems (Chapter 8) April

Conics (chapter 10) April

AQUINAS COLLEGE

Department of Mathematics

The mission of the Mathematics Department at Aquinas College is directly linked to the mission of the College in that it provides a program for all students that is an essential part of a liberal arts education. It promotes the study of mathematics in depth in preparation for graduate school or an immediate career, supports the mathematical needs of other disciplines, and supplies a curriculum for all students to enhance their understanding of mathematical thought.

Through out this course, your work has to be your own. Your name on your graded work implies that you performed the calculations, figured out the steps, had an insight or accomplished other work yourself.

Aquinas College Mission Statement

Aquinas College is rooted in the Dominican traditions of prayer, study, community and service, combined with a deep respect for truth, honesty and integrity. In this spirit, we strive to create an environment in which integrity is prized and practiced. We expect all community members to uphold these values through honesty, fairness, and respect for others.

Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Required Text: *Heart of Mathematics*, by Burger and Starbird, 4th edition. There are two different covers, full color and no color. Either book is fine.

Course Description

This course will probably be the last time you will study math in your life. Since some of you will become people of influence, we take advantage of this last opportunity to show you why every college has a department of mathematics. We start with a difficult topic like the infinitude of primes or the different types of infinite sets and establish the ideas necessary for their careful examination. This happens in each chapter. So there is not an enormous build-up of concepts because each chapter stands alone. This course often has a title like *Survey of Mathematics* since it is exactly like an art or music survey course: we study complicated ideas from the rookie's point of view. Your success will depend on your ability to process complicated ideas. If math has been an obstacle, we are going to make math into a door this time. You are more sophisticated than you were the last time you took a math class. You have the capacity to easily handle things which you found intimidating a few years ago. Here is an opportunity for success in an area which might have been annoying.

Course Objectives

1. We will work on chapters 1 - 10 of the text.
2. Students will gain a good understanding of problem-solving.
3. Students will find the factors of composite numbers, find prime numbers and use numerical properties to solve math problems.
4. Students will be able to count elements of sets, including infinite sets. They will be able to prove the difference between countable and uncountable sets.
5. Students will use arithmetic to explore bases other than 10 and modular arithmetic.
6. Students will use basic geometry to study various theorems and properties. Students will learn basic topological ideas to study surfaces and knots.
7. Students will learn the underlying structure of fractals well enough to create their own and find locations in the Mandelbrot set.
8. Students will use calculators to explore descriptive statistical topics.

Methodology and Course Requirements

Homework is the backbone of the class. Each meeting begins with questions about homework problems, then new ideas. Unprepared students often fumble in-class activities while prepared students succeed. These in-class activities count as quizzes. Please attend class, at the least, in order to do well on these quizzes.

Assessment Tools Used and Criteria for Evaluation and Grading

Graded work comes from quizzes, at least one per chapter and tests, exactly one per chapter.

Grade calculation: $.3 \times (\text{quiz average}) + .5 \times (\text{test average}) + .2 \times (\text{final exam}) =$ final grade.

All grades are percentages. Tests and quizzes are corrected the next day. Letter grades are assigned by

70 through 72, C- 73 through 76, C 77 through 79, C+ and so on.

Accessibility Policy

Aquinas College is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. If you need accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Accessibility (Disability) Services Office at 616-632-2177, dsservices@aquinas.edu. The office is located in the Wege Center, room 103C. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified letter from the Accessibility Services Office. Please present your accommodation letter to me as soon as possible in order to begin utilizing accommodations. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive.

Academic Assistance

Academic Learning Services (616) 632-2166 offers free tutoring to all students. The instructor suggests you use office hours and the **free math tutoring** in AB50. The schedule is approximately MTWTH noon to 5pm in AB50.

Written or other work that a student submits must be the product of her/his own efforts. Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty, including dishonesty involving computer technology, are prohibited. Further information on Academic Dishonesty can be found in the current College Catalog and in the Student Conduct Code. Work lifted off the internet, even when credited correctly, counts for nothing in this course.

Calendar. January: Chapters 1,2,3

February: Chapters 4,5

March: Chapters 6,7

April/May: Chapters 8 -10