

Discovery Precalculus
M 305G, Preparation for Calculus
Course Syllabus: 2017-18

UT Austin Instructor of Record	Course Coordinator
Appointed by the UT Austin department to grade college coursework and determine whether a student earns college credit	Subject-matter expert who provides training to your High School Instructor of Record
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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Using a creative and connected approach, students deepen and extend their knowledge of functions, graphs, and equations from their high school algebra and geometry courses so that they can successfully work with the concepts in a rigorous university-level calculus course. This course is designed to push students well beyond “drill and kill” exercises, emphasizing conceptual understanding of mathematical definitions and developing logical arguments with their peers.

This course may be used to fulfill the mathematics component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following three core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, and empirical and quantitative skills.

A. Course Pre-requisites

- Passed Algebra II

B. Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will have a deeper and more connected understanding of the following units:

1. Functions, Rates, and Patterns
2. Algebra and Geometry
3. Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
4. Trigonometry
5. Limits and Rate of Change of Functions
6. Exploring Other Coordinate Systems
7. Sequences and Series

C. Format and Procedures

This course uses Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL), a pedagogy designed to engage students in the educational process. Inquiry-Based Learning is a student-centered methodology, which emphasizes the importance of the active construction of learning. Therefore, students are expected to pose questions, make decisions, design plans and experiments, discuss, collaborate, communicate results, and provide justified answers and explanations when engaged in the inquiry process.

D. Course Schedule

The dates below will vary by High School Instructor of Record.

Approximate Dates	Unit & Topic		Approximate Dates	Unit & Topic
9/22/17	Unit 1 Exam		1/19/18	Unit 4A Exam
11/6/17	Unit 2 Exam		2/23/18	Unit 4B Exam
12/5/17	Unit 3 Exam		3/28/18	Unit 5 Exam
12/15/17	Midterm Exam		5/2/18	Unit 6 Exam

2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Materials and Devices

- **Canvas Learning Management System.** OnRamps provides an online learning environment in Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) for all students in this class. You are expected to access Canvas weekly for quizzes and exams. You will have access to two Canvas courses: the OnRamps high school course and the college course. URL: <https://onramps.instructure.com>
- **OnRamps Student Portal.** You will also visit the OnRamps Student Portal throughout the term to view and make decisions about your current OnRamps enrollments, including whether you are eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit, the type of credit you wish to receive (Letter Grade or Pass/Fail), and, at the end of the course, whether you wish to accept or decline college credit, if earned. URL: <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/ce/osis/>
- **Email.** Email is an official means of communication at UT Austin, and your UT Austin instructor of Record will use this medium to communicate class information. Keep your email address properly updated in the Canvas and OnRamps Student Portal at all times. Check your Canvas message Inbox weekly, as important information will be relayed from your UT Austin Instructor of Record via Canvas.

B. Classroom Expectations

- **Class participation.** Participation with peers is a critical feature to this course. Presenting work with the class is also a frequent expectation of the students.
- **Behavioral expectations.** Students should conduct themselves in a collegial manner with their peers and instructor.
- **Class attendance.** Attendance is critical to the learning in this course. If an absence is expected then arrangements should be made with the High School Instructor of Record prior to the absence. If an absence is unexpected then **students must communicate** with the High School Instructor of Record as soon as possible to make arrangements to make up the missed work. If missed assignments are not made up in a timely manner the grade may result in a zero.

C. How to Succeed in this Course

M 305G is designed to help you become a more effective independent learner and problem solver, both essential skills to succeed in college. Here are a few ideas for how to be successful in a college course adapted from the Sanger Learning Center on UT-Austin Campus:

Prepare for Success

Attend class and do your assigned readings and homework. When you miss class, make time to make up your work. Advocate for yourself if you know you will be absent by planning ahead and determining upcoming assignments that you will miss.

Time & Goals

Take time at the beginning of each week to assess your weekly commitments and goals. Allocate time to achieving your goals on a daily basis. Make sure your goals are SMART: Specific, Measureable, Action-Oriented, Realistic and Time-Bound.

Be active

Engage yourself in the learning process. Accomplish this by asking questions if you do not understand a concept, trying a problem again a different way if you get stuck or forming a study group and working together.

D. Assignments & Grading

- Unit Exams occur roughly once a month at the end of each Unit (Unit 4 is assessed twice due to its length). Most exams have two portions: a Canvas portion and a hand written portion.
- The Unit Exploration Assessment is taken on Canvas after the Unit Exam. There will be a one-week window to complete the assessment, and the assessment can be taken outside of class. Students are allowed to use notes on the assessment.
- The OnRamps Orientation is taken once at the beginning of the year. Students will receive a completion grade in the college course.

Assessment	Description	Frequency	% Course Grade
Unit Exams	Assessment of core skills and foundational understanding for each unit.	Once a Unit (two for Unit 4)	90%
Unit Exploration Assessments	Assessment of key understanding of Explorations for each unit.	Once a Unit (two for Unit 4)	9%
OnRamps Orientation	Modules geared towards introducing students to an OnRamps Course.	Once at the beginning of the school year.	1%
Total			100%

- **Grading Scale**
 - 100-90% = A
 - 89-80% = B
 - 79-70% = C
 - 69-60% = D
 - 59-0% = F
- A cumulative midterm exam may be taken after Unit 3 to replace the lowest exam score up to a 75%.
- You must earn a minimum average grade of **60** on college assignments and assessments during the eligibility period, which is the first part of the academic term, to be eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit. If you do not earn the minimum grade to be eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit, there are other ways you can gain eligibility. For more information about eligibility, see section **3. College Credit**.

3. COLLEGE CREDIT

This is a dual-enrollment course, which means you may earn credit through the UT Austin University Extension for M 305G in addition to earning high school credit. This course is taught via distance by a UT Austin Instructor of Record.

Your High School Instructor of Record is responsible for assigning high school grades and determining high school credit. The UT Austin Instructor of Record is responsible for assigning college grades and determining college eligibility and credit. High school grades may differ from college grades, even on identical assignments, because of differences in high school and college expectations. Your high school grades or work will not contribute to your college grade.

A. Eligibility for the Opportunity to Earn College Credit

You demonstrate eligibility for the opportunity to earn college credit through your grades on your college assignments during the eligibility period, which is the first part of the academic term.

- **Grade-Based Eligibility.** If you meet the minimum eligibility grade of a **60** on college assignments and assessments completed during the first part of the academic term, you are determined eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit based on your grade.
- **Eligibility by Submitting Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Documentation.** If you do not meet the grade-based eligibility criteria, you can submit proof of scores on certain standardized assessments, as outlined in the table below.

Assessment	Minimum Score
TSI	350 on the Math Section
SAT (March 1, 2016 or later)	530 on the Math Section
SAT (before March 1, 2016)	500 on the Math Section AND 1070 Composite Score
ACT	19 on the Math Section AND 23 Composite Score

B. College Credit Process

Throughout the term, you will view information and indicate decisions about your college course in the OnRamps Student Portal (<http://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/ce/osis>). You will access the portal to register for your course, view your eligibility status, select a college credit type (if you are eligible to earn college credit), view your final course grade, and indicate your decision to accept or decline any college credit earned.

The table below describes the college credit process. Throughout the year you will be provided with detailed information and instructions for accessing the portal and indicating your decisions about your college course.

Important Steps and Dates in College Credit Process

Step	Action	Dates
1	<p>UT Austin Instructor of Record determines your eligibility for the opportunity to earn college credit based on grades on college assignments and assessments completed during the first part of the academic term.</p> <p>Visit the OnRamps Student Portal to find out if you are eligible for the opportunity to earn college credit.</p>	January 2, 2018
2	If you are ineligible to earn college credit, you may submit TSI documentation to demonstrate college readiness [See section 3A] and continue in the college portion of the course.	January 19, 2018 at 5:00 pm
3	If you submitted TSI, visit the OnRamps Student Portal to view your final Eligibility status.	January 29, 2018
4	<p>If you are eligible to earn college credit, visit the OnRamps Student Portal to select the type of credit you wish to earn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter Grade: You are taking the course for a letter grade, such as A, B, C, or D. If you earn and accept credit for the course, the letter grade you earn will appear on your UT Austin transcript, • Pass/Fail: You are taking the course for credit only. If you earn and accept credit for the course, "CR" indicating credit earned will appear on your UT Austin transcript. 	February 19– March 9, 2018
5	<p>UT Austin Instructor of Record determines whether to award college credit based on your grades on college assessments in the course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter grade of D or above or Pass: You earned credit and will be issued a UT Austin transcript if you choose to accept credit. • Letter grade of F or Fail: You did not earn credit and will have no academic record for the course at UT Austin. <p>Visit OnRamps Student Portal to find out your final grade and whether you earned college credit. Elect to accept or decline any credit earned. If you decline credit, you will have no academic record for the course at UT Austin.</p>	May 14–18, 2018

4. POLICIES AND RESOURCES

A. Students with Disabilities

If you receive high-school accommodations/modifications related to a disability, you may also receive accommodations in your dual-enrollment courses. Accommodations in an OnRamps course follow accommodations in your Individual Education Plan or 504 that have been provided by the high school. Accommodations are individualized and based on your need and disability. You must make your need for accommodations known to the UT Austin Instructor of Record prior to the due date for an assignment in order to use accommodations for that assignment. You are strongly encouraged to provide information about your need for accommodations at the beginning of the course or immediately following changes to your Individual Education Plan or 504.

Possible accommodations that are allowable depending on your need and disability include extended test time, test administration in a reduced-distraction area, utilizing speech software, using a calculator, or reading test questions aloud (but NOT explaining the questions).

High School Instructors of Record may not eliminate answers on a test or provide a word bank as these are not approved post-secondary accommodations for disabilities.

B. Academic Integrity

OnRamps students are subject to the University's academic integrity policies. Each student in the course is expected to abide by the University's Honor Code:

“As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.”

This means that work you produce on assignments and exams is all your own work, unless it is assigned as group work. The UT Austin Instructor of Record or your High School Instructor of Record will make it clear for each assignment or exam whether collaboration is allowed.

Always cite your sources. If you use words or ideas that are not your own (or that you have used in work submitted in a previous class, you must make that clear. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism and subject to academic disciplinary action, including failure of the course.

You are responsible for understanding UT's Academic Honesty Policy, which can be found here: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

More information about academic integrity may be found in the OnRamps Orientation in Canvas.

C. FERPA

All dual-enrollment students are college students and subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). As a participant in the UT OnRamps Program, it is important that you understand these rights as they apply to you.



Under FERPA, High School Instructors of Record and University Course Staff may not discuss college coursework with parents. Additionally, parents do not have access to information regarding a student's academic standing (GPA, academic transcript, academic warning, academic probation, or discipline records), unless the student signs a FERPA waiver stating that their academic information may be released to parents if requested.

For more information on FERPA and how it applies to you please visit the U.S. Department of Education: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>