



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**Precalculus
Math 2412.40**

Peter Blaskiewicz

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

Precalculus
Math 2412.40

Course Description:

In-depth combined study of algebra, trigonometry, and other topics for calculus readiness.
Semester Hours 4 (4 lecture)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

MATH 1314 with a C or better, or passing grade on non-credit equivalency exam for Math 1314 or credit in high school precalculus, or consent of division chair.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

MyMathLab (*MML*) will be used extensively for posting course notes, assignments, grades, testing, and other communications. Students are expected to check their *MML* and MCC email accounts often.

You will need MyMathLab access that lasts at least through the second week of December. (18-week access will be sufficient. You do **not** need 24-month access.)

Please do not, under any circumstances, come to class if you are even slightly sick or have any symptoms that make you think you might possibly be sick, no matter what type of illness. Let me know, and I will make arrangements for you to be able to get the material that is being covered on the day that you are out due to illness.

I will be available for individual Zoom chat sessions / ‘office hour’ by arrangement, especially if you cannot come to one of the regular class sessions. The best way to arrange a Zoom meeting is by emailing me with a suggestion of a time or two that would work for you; if you call me, a voice message would go to my email box anyway.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Peter Blaskiewicz
MCC E-mail: pblaskiewicz@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: (254) 299-8869
Office Location: MATH 213
Office/Teacher Conference Hours:
MW 9:45-10:45 a.m.; TTh 1:30-2:30 p.m.; other times by arrangement
(Office Zoom: <https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/2542998869> by prior email arrangement)

Required Text & Materials:

Required: MyMathLab website access with 18-week duration

Required: graphing calculator – TI-84 or TI-83

Having a printed copy of the text is completely optional. The textbook to which MyMathLab will be connected (and which will be available electronically inside MyMathLab) is:

Optional: *Precalculus* (11th edition) by Michael Sullivan (2020 Pearson)

ISBN-10: 0-135-18940-3 | ISBN-13: 978-0-135-18940-5

(Note: The entire textbook is available electronically inside MyMathLab.)

MyMathLab may be accessed at <http://www.mymathlab.com/>

The Course ID for Math 2412.40 will be given to you in Brightspace.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture with student participation in example problems; homework submitted online through MyMathLab; memorization quizzes over trigonometry facts; tests and a final exam in MyMathLab or in classroom.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of properties of functions.
- Recognize and apply algebraic and transcendental functions and solve related equations.
- Apply graphing techniques to algebraic and transcendental functions.
- Compute the values of trigonometric functions for key angles in all quadrants of the unit circle measured in both degrees and radians.
- Prove trigonometric identities.
- Solve right and oblique triangles.
- Critical Thinking: Critical thinking is the essence of all mathematical studies. Through inductive and deductive reasoning, students explore problems using the logical process of inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.
- Communications: Students participate in assignments involving topics related to Precalculus or other mathematics. They then share their result with their instructor and/or colleagues in class via written, oral, and/or visual methods. Assessment will use at least one of the following: board work, class time explanation, case study presentation, poster board presentation, and small group presentation. Evaluation process will use departmental rubric for communication assessment.
 - Empirical/Quantitative: Students work on various mathematical problem solving skills throughout the course. The course focuses on the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts as presented in application problems and/or problem skill sets in which students demonstrate their ability to reach informed conclusions using mathematical process. Assessment will include discussion, independent practice, or

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collaborative experience, or instructional technology to include questions from a departmental test bank and the CAAP test.

Course Outline or Schedule:

The schedule is subject to change. Should a change become necessary, students will be notified about changes verbally, during class. In the event school is closed for illness, weather, or any other unscheduled reason on the day a test is scheduled, the test will be given during the next class meeting.

Week (Dates)	Section	Topic
1 (Aug 22-28)	4.1 – 4.4	Polynomial Functions and Models; Properties of Rational Functions; The Graph of a Rational Function
2 (Aug 29-Sept 4)	4.5 – 4.7	Polynomial and Rational Inequalities; Complex Zeros: Fundamental Theorem of Algebra
3 (Sept 5-11)	5.3 – 5.6	Exponential Functions; Logarithmic Functions; Properties of Logarithms; Logarithmic and Exponential Equations
4 (Sept 12-18)	6.1 – 6.2	Test 1 (Chapters 4 and 5) Angles and Their Measure; Trigonometric Functions: Unit Circle Approach
5 (Sept 19-25)	6.3 – 6.6	Properties of the Trigonometric Functions; Graphs of the Sine and Cosine Functions; Graphs of the Tangent, Cotangent, Secant, and Cosecant Functions; Phase Shift
6 (Sept 26-Oct 2)	7.1 – 7.3	The Inverse Sine, Cosine and Tangent Functions; Trigonometric Equations
7 (Oct 3-9)	7.4 – 7.5	Trigonometric Identities; Sum-and-Difference Identities
8 (Oct 10-16)	7.6	Double-Angle and Half-Angle Formulas Test 2 (Chapters 6 and 7)
9 (Oct 17-23)	8.1 – 8.2	Right-Triangle Trigonometry; The Law of Sines
10 (Oct 24-30)	8.3 – 8.4; 9.1	The Law of Cosines; Area of a Triangle; Polar Coordinates
11 (Oct 31-Nov 6)	9.2 – 9.4	Polar Equations and Graphs; The Complex Plane; DeMoivre's Theorem; Vectors
12 (Nov 7-13)	10.2 – 10.4 10.7	Test 3 (Chapters 8 and 9); The Parabola; The Ellipse; The Hyperbola; Plane Curves and Parametric Equations
13 (Nov 14-20)	12.1 – 12.3; 12.5	Sequences; Arithmetic Sequences; Geometric Sequences; Geometric Series; The Binomial Theorem
14 (Nov 21-27)		Test 4 (Chapters 10 and 12)
15 (Nov 28-Dec 4)	14.1 – 14.2	Finding Limits Using Tables and Graphs; Algebraic Techniques for Finding Limits
16 (Dec 8)		Final Exam -- cumulative

Tentative Schedule:

The following dates are tentatively scheduled as our testing dates.

- Test 1 (Chapters 4 and 5) – week of September 12-18
- Test 2 (Chapters 6 and 7) – week of October 10-16
- Test 3 (Chapters 8 and 9) – week of November 7-13
- Test 4 (Chapters 10 and 12) – week of November 21-27

Our pace will generally be to cover two sections per class period or three sections per week. Please plan accordingly in preparing for class. In those rare, rare instances when you must be absent, use this as a guideline to know about how much material you would need to make up.

In the event that the school closes for illness, weather, or other unscheduled situations, any face-to-face meetings will be held in Zoom instead at the regularly scheduled class time. In the event anything prevents that from happening, be prepared the next class period to do whatever was planned for the class period that was canceled.

Course Grading Information:

Your course grade will be based on homework, classwork, quizzes, chapter tests, and a cumulative exam. The relative weights of each of these factors is as follows:

Homework (online using MyMathLab)	20%
Quizzes	5%
Active participation	3%
Tests (projected 4@ 15% -- if other, the weights will total 60%)	60%
Final Exam	12%

Some of our class time will be spent on working problems together. You will be graded on your class participation, whether answer or asking questions, or discussing the topics. If we are meeting in Zoom, you should be ready with your microphone, or type your answers or questions in the chat window. In order to be able to earn a decent score on this portion of your course grade, it is imperative that you prepare ahead of time and participate actively in class. At the end of the semester, if you are simply a name on the class roster to me, you will not have earned any participation credit.

Homework will be assigned and worked online using MyMathLab (<http://www.mymathlab.com/>). The deadline for each set of homework will be the scheduled time of the test over the sections covered by the homework.

We will be covering chapters 4 – 10, 12, and 14 of the text. Generally, there will be a test after each two chapters. If any tests are given online, they will have a time limit, and they must be completed within a specified window (a day or a couple of days). The tests will all be weighted equally, with all the test weights equal to 60% of the course grade.

NOTE: In order to take a test, each of the homework sets covered on the test must be completed with a grade of at least 80%. Otherwise MyMathLab will not allow you to open the test. Deadlines for tests will not be extended for those who can't access the test due to

unfinished homework. Whether tests are given online or as pencil-and-paper tests in class, the same 80% criterion must be met in order for you to be given a test.

If you must miss one test for one of the reasons given in MCC's General Catalog, and you have provided a documented excuse for doing so, the exam will also count as your make-up test for that chapter. If it is necessary for you to miss more than one test, you should discuss the situation with me. Unexcused absences from tests will not be made up.

The final exam will be cumulative. It is scheduled for Thursday, December 8. Please plan accordingly. Your grade on the final may also count in place of your one lowest test grade, if that is to your advantage.

The letter grade received in this course will be based on the customary 90-80-70-60 scale.

This course will use a variety of internal and external assessments. A faculty developed comprehensive final exam may assess the core objectives of critical thinking and empirical/quantitative analysis. These core objectives may also be assessed using parts of a standardized test (CAAP). A faculty-designed rubric will be used to assess communication skills as well. Review of such items such as GPA, retention levels, and success in following course may be used to evaluate the effectiveness of student learning.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Homework over a unit (chapter or group of chapters) is due the day of the test over those chapters. Since one of the primary purposes of the homework is to prepare you for the test, late homework will be penalized 2% per day of the credit on the problems submitted late. (The penalty will not be applied to any problems in a set that are submitted on time, but only to problems in the set that are submitted late.)

Your attendance will be based on any scheduled classroom meetings, your activity in MyMathLab and participation in Zoom class sessions (if we have any), or 'office hour meetings' with the instructor. If two consecutive weeks, or else four individual weeks, elapse with no activity from a student, including in MyMathLab, that will be taken as an indication that the student does not intend to pursue the course to completion, and the student will be dropped from the course for non-attendance. If a situation arises that requires you to be inactive for more than just a few days, please contact the instructor and discuss the situation, so that you are not otherwise dropped for non-attendance.

If you miss taking one chapter test during its announced window, the grade on the final exam can count to replace that missing test grade. (It will also count as the final.) If you have missed more than one test, only one of those missing grades can be replaced by the final. If you miss the final, the course grade will be calculated with a 0 in its place. (Please do not miss the final!)

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to be courteous and respectful of their classmates and of instructors at all

times. This includes, but is not limited to, the following.

For face-to-face meetings:

- Masking and social distancing are not required in our classroom at the start of the semester. I reserve the right to change this at my discretion if I believe the situation warrants. In any case, be respectful of the personal space of others.
- If you are ill or have any symptoms of **any** illness (not limited to Covid), do not come to school. If you are at all sick, or think you might be, **stay home**. If you let me know, I will make arrangements for you to be able to get the material that is being covered on the day that you are out due to illness, so that you may stay caught up.
- Arrive in the classroom on time; be as unobtrusive as possible if tardy.
- Silence or turn off cell phones and other communication devices during all regular class periods. (During tests, these devices should not be present at all. If you access your phone during a test, you are automatically finished with your test and must turn it in immediately.)
- Save private conversations with other students for before/after class lectures.
- Do not bring children to class nor leave them unattended on campus. To do so is contrary to school policy.
- Do not use excessive amounts of fragrance. Doing so is grounds for being required to leave.
- You may not share calculators on a test.

For Zoom meetings, if we have any:

- Familiarize yourself with Zoom's features
- Please do participate in the class meetings. It's fine to have your mic on and ready for interaction, but mute yourself if the dog or children or other background noise would disrupt us.
- Please use your webcam if you have one. Let me, as well as your fellow classmates, know who is in this course with us. But be mindful of your surroundings when your webcam is on. If necessary or desirable, use a non-distracting virtual background; Zoom provides that option.
- Dress appropriately for class.
- Once the lecture gets going, stick to the topic at hand, just as you would for a face-to-face lecture class. Avoid doing other tasks, checking email, being on the phone, or the like.
- Do not use coarse or foul or offensive language, nor offensive or questionable imagery. Violation of this would be grounds for disciplinary action, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course. Remember that the session is being recorded.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

The Center for Academic Integrity defines academic integrity as “a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.” Individual faculty members determine their class policies and behavioral expectations for students. Students who commit violations of academic integrity should expect serious consequences. For further information about student responsibilities and rights, please consult the McLennan website and your Highlander Student Guide.

For more information, see <https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity>

Collaboration on out-of-class assignments is encouraged, but at no time should work belonging to one student be in the possession of another student. Likewise, students are not to engage in cheating in any form during or in preparation for tests or the final exam. All students involved in a cheating incident, whether in providing or receiving assistance, will receive grades of 0 for that assignment, be reported to Student Development, and find their names placed in the MCC database for cheating incidents. If there is a second incident, all students involved will be dropped from the course with grades of F and listed as repeat offenders in the database.

MCC Attendance Policy:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students, and each instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course, including online and hybrid courses. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences.



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/student-email.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.