

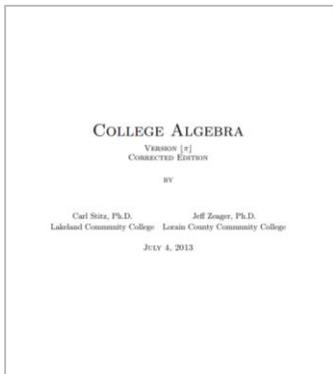


## Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The [California Open Educational Resources Council](http://www.cool4ed.org) 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](http://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 etextbooks 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:

### College Algebra



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Find it: [eTextbook Website](#)

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Format

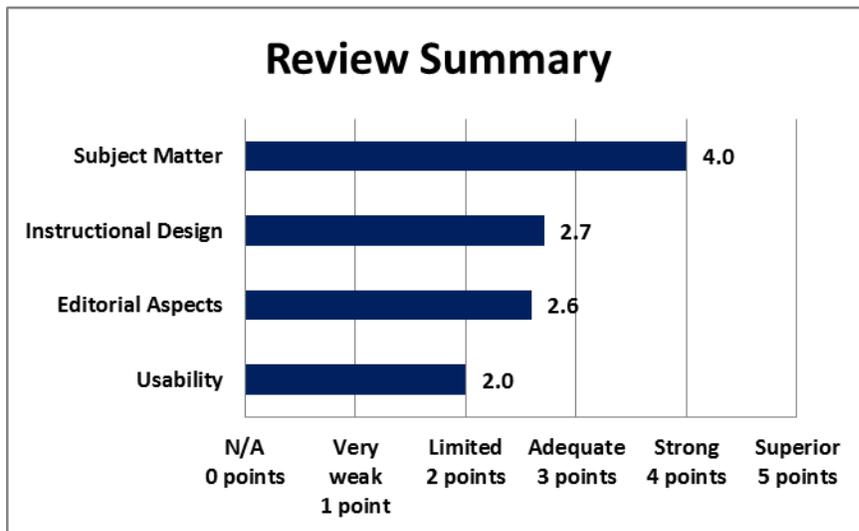
Reviewed:

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Date Reviewed:

August 2015



### California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: [MATH 151](#)

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 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: 24 out of 30

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

- Though the textbook presents material in a clear manner, there seems to be some examples that should be reconsidered. For example, in chapter 2, there is a graph about slopes, where the first graph and the second graph are very similar in look, though one graph is supposed to show a vertical line, whereas the other is a negative sloping line. Both graphs upon initial viewing, look the same.
- There are also homework questions, though very thought provoking, seems to be outside the scope of the course.
- Access to test banks would be helpful.

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: 19 out of 35

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

- I would like to comment that the provided solutions at the end of each [section] is very helpful to students.
- The layout of the textbook follows that of a traditional graduate level textbook, which is not a fault but an advantage for students to understand that textbooks vary from author to author and there needs to be variety, which this textbook shows.

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 laid out 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: 13 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- There were no multimedia features of this textbook, it was a basic pdf file. As far as page layout and visually engaging, this was a very basic (good feature) textbook that focused on the pedagogy of the material, there was no gimmicks to distract from material that was being taught.

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: 10 out of 25

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

- I had no issues printing or navigating through this textbook. There was no software or hardware components, being the fact that this was a pdf textbook.

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	
How willing would you be to adopt this book?	Not at all (0 pts)	Strong reservations (1 pt)	Limited willingness (2 pts)	Willing (3 pts)	Strongly willing (4 pts)	Enthusiastically willing (5 pts)
					X	

Total Points: 8 out of 10

## Overall Comments

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

- Price and usability of this textbook. It is of no surprise that the price of textbooks is on the rise, even with the availability of renting a textbook, some students are not able to. The major aspect after looking for a textbook that would cover all the required curriculum would be the price of the textbook. It may seem crude, to look at the price of a textbook, when deciding if it should be adopted, but in this day and age of rising prices for everything from tuition to textbooks, price is a large concern of mine, especially if it means accessibility for my students.

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

- Some of the examples and homework problems need to be review.

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.)



For questions or more information, contact the [CA Open Educational Resources Council](#).



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