

Math 005A: Preparatory Calculus Workshop

Spring 2026

Instructor: Linda Navarro

Office: ACS 310C

Email: lnavarro14@ucmerced.edu

PURPOSE: The sole purpose of Math 005A is to help you succeed in Math 005 Precalculus. As such, the course provides the opportunity to develop foundational skills in quantitative and mathematical reasoning. **Math 005A is a separate course with a separate grade from Math 005. However, you cannot withdraw from Math 005 without also withdrawing from Math 005A.** While coursework in Math 005A is similar to Math 005, grades, participation, homework, and assessments in each of these classes are different and independent.

COURSE FORMAT: This one-unit course meets twice a week for 50-minute sessions each. During this time, we will practice sets of problems that will help facilitate Math 005 topics. Since this is a discussion section course, there will be no lectures.

COURSE MATERIALS:

- ALEKS: the same online adaptive learning program used by your Math 005 course
- Laptop/tablet/smartphone to access CatCourses or ALEKS during class
 - Must be able to upload work via CatCourses
- Notebook with writing utensil for note-taking and/or curriculum retention

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: You will learn the prerequisite skills needed to demonstrate the ability to work with real-world situations involving fundamental math concepts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Communicate clear and precise mathematical statements in writing and in speech
- Work individually and in groups to solve mathematics problems
- Utilize logical and quantitative reasoning in a mathematical argument
- Analyze and determine if two mathematical expressions are equivalent
- Solve equations involving algebraic, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric expressions
- Define trigonometric values using triangles and circles
- Grasp elementary geometric concepts and standard shapes and apply geometric formulas
- Understand coordinate systems and connect mathematical equations to the geometric figures they represent
- Demonstrate an elementary understanding of functions and function notations
- Be comfortable with different representations of functions (verbal, graphical, tabular, and symbolic)
- Understand specific families of functions and their properties, including linear, quadratic, power, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric
- Model real-world situations using appropriate functions
- Create new functions from given one through algebraic means and function composition

GRADING POLICY: Grading is Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U) based on the following:

- **Participation (20%):** Participation is graded based on attendance, completion of group worksheets, surveys, and other in-class activities.
- **Lecture videos (20%):** Lecture videos are graded by watching selective video(s) prior to the discussion class.
- **Quizzes (30%):** Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of each discussion class
- **Homework (30%):** Homework will be assigned and completed via ALEKS

A grade of 80% or higher will result in S. The lowest grade on participation, quizzes, and homework will be dropped at the end of the semester.

CLASS POLICIES:

Dropping the course: The last day for dropping the course online is Monday, February 9, 2026. The last day to withdraw from the course with a 'W' on your transcript is Tuesday, April 7, 2026.

Classroom Decorum: The class will be conducted in a structured and business-like manner. Please exercise consideration/respect for the instructor and your fellow students. Disruptive behavior in the classroom is not conducive to the education process. You are not allowed to engage in non-math activities during class. Some examples of disruptive behavior, but not limited to, are texting, writing/reading emails, watching non-math videos, excessive and loud talking, etc. Any signs of curriculum disruption may result in dismissal from the class and/or a score of 0 for participation and quiz.

Attendance: Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance can be taken through roll call, quizzes, or in-class activities. Being late or leaving early can result in a low to zero score for participation. Arriving after the given quiz will result in a score of 0.

Missed quizzes: There are no make-up quizzes for this course. If you have an unusual situation, such as a prolonged illness, a valid note is required to excuse your absence. A valid note must be an official document (such as a signed letterhead or electronic record) from a doctor, clinic, court, or UCM-sponsored activity.

No calculators are allowed for all in-class activities and quizzes.

Academic Integrity Policy and Practices: Academic integrity is the foundation of an academic community and without it none of the educational or research goals of the university can be achieved. All members of the university community are responsible for its academic integrity. Existing policies forbid cheating on examinations, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. The UC Merced Academic Honesty Policy and Adjudication Procedures are available on the website <https://osrr.ucmerced.edu>.

Student Accessibility Services

We strive to ensure that all students can thrive in our course and we're happy to provide individuals with disabilities, reasonable accommodations to help support success. If you anticipate requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements, please notify your primary instructor (your discussion section instructor) as early as possible, and also contact the UCM Student Accessibility Services office (<https://access.ucmerced.edu>) to obtain their assistance and coordination in working with this course.

Accommodation Process

1. The student meets with SAS and provides documentation and completes their registration forms.
2. SAS evaluates needs and determines appropriate accommodation(s).
3. SAS communicates accommodations to the instructor. The student arranges to meet with their instructor to discuss the approved accommodation(s) and make appropriate arrangements.
4. The student schedules proctoring through SAS as needed for assessments covered by accommodations.

We will also make every effort to accommodate all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams and assignments. Please contact your primary instructor during the first week of class regarding any potential academic adjustments or accommodations that may arise due to religious beliefs during this term.