

Syllabus

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2026
- Course Title: College Algebra
- Course Prefix and Number: MAT151
- Section Number: 18703
- Credit Hours: 4
- Start Date: Aug 25, 2026
- End Date: Dec 18, 2026
- Meeting Days: T/Th
- Meeting Times: 8:30-10:10 AM
- Class Format: In-Person

Instructor Information

- Instructor: James Spiker
- Email: james.spiker@scottsdalecc.edu
- Phone: 480-423-6012
- Office Location: CM409
- Office Hours: Mon/Wed 7-10 am

Course Description

Analysis and interpretation of the behavior and nature of functions including linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomials, rational, exponential, logarithmic, power, absolute value, and piecewise-defined functions; systems of equations, using multiple methods including matrices, and modeling and solving real world problems.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

- Prerequisites: A grade of C or better in MAT095, or MAT096, or MAT114, or MAT115, or MAT12+, OR an appropriate district placement for MAT15+, OR permission of Department or Division Chair.

Course Notes

MAT151 students may receive credit for only one of the following: MAT150, OR MAT151, OR MAT152, OR MAT155, OR MAT156.

MOER: moer.maricopa.edu

Course ID 23672

Enrollment Key 18703

Course Competencies

1. Calculate and interpret the average rate of change in varied contexts, using function notation including the difference quotient.
2. Define, distinguish, and interpret the relations and functions and their inverses represented verbally, graphically, numerically, or algebraically.
3. Evaluate functions, including composition, and solve function equations and inequalities using multiple methods.
4. Set up, solve, and interpret the meaning of solutions of systems of linear equations using multiple methods, including matrices where appropriate.
5. Identify, graph, analyze, and determine the key characteristics of the following function types and their transformations: linear, quadratic, higher-order polynomial, power, radical, rational, exponential, logarithmic, absolute value, and piecewise-defined.
6. Model real world situations using a variety of mathematical techniques (including regression) and solve real world mathematical problems using functions.

General Education & Institutional Learning Outcomes

General Education provides foundational learning experiences that contribute to academic and career success. It is reflected in Scottsdale Community College's Institutional Learning Outcomes: Arts & Humanities Awareness, Career Readiness, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Information Literacy, and Social Responsibility. Students who take MAT151 will analyze and interpret functions, solve systems of equations, and model real world problems using a variety of mathematical techniques.

Program Learning Outcomes

Credit-bearing courses at Scottsdale Community College can count toward the completion of a degree or certificate program. Each program has Program Learning Outcomes, which are

learned assets that students can claim to have acquired by completing their academic or occupational program at SCC. Program Learning Outcomes can be found on the [Degrees and Certificates page](#) of the SCC Website. For each degree, look under “What You’ll Learn.”

This course is a General Education course that is foundational to many degree programs and a key component of the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) certificate program. This course fulfills a mathematics requirement for the AGEC (for Liberal Arts Majors).

Texts and Course Materials

Text: Note: Buying/Printing the textbook is not required.

College Algebra, Scottsdale Community College Edition, Jay Abramson Textbook Content, copyright 2017 Rice University

Cover design copyright 2019 by Premium Source Publishing ISBN: 978634348478

Download for free: [OpenStax College Algebra Textbook](#)

[Visit the SCC Bookstore](#)

Course Policies

The following are policies specific to this course. Students are also responsible for the college policies included on the [Student Regulations](#) page of the Maricopa Community College District website.

Withdrawal Policy: The last date for a guaranteed W grade in this course can be found at: [SCC Academic Dates & Deadlines](#)

Grade of Incomplete

The grade of I is exceptional and given only to students whose completed coursework has been qualitatively satisfactory but who have been unable to complete all course requirements because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control. The grade of I may be considered only for students who have completed at least 85 percent of the total coursework requirements with a grade of C or better. The student must request an I before the end of the semester. The faculty member retains the right to make the final decision on granting a student's request for an I, even though the student may meet the eligibility requirements for this grade. If the request is approved, the faculty member will determine a deadline for which work must be completed, and the grade the student will receive if the work is not completed on time.

Participation and Withdrawal

This is not a self-paced class. You have assignments and due dates and must make regular and consistent progress on course work and assignments. Please note that I will not give you an F if you merely stop participating. If you meet or exceed the limits listed below, then you may be withdrawn from the class and not receive a letter grade (A–F).

- Students who have not created their MOER account and completed the syllabus quiz assignment by the end of the first day of class (11:59 pm) may be dropped from the class.
- Students who do not complete the Unit 1 Online Test by the due date may be dropped from the class.
- Students who do not log in to MOER and make progress on the assignments for a 7-day period may be withdrawn from the class.
- Cheating on any assignment may result in withdrawal from the course.
- Students who do not make other arrangements in advance and do not take an exam at the scheduled time may earn a withdrawal from the course.

Class Drop

If you realize right away that this class is not for you, you will need to drop the class as soon as possible in order to receive a full refund. Check the College Catalog for these important dates. You are responsible for dropping within the window to obtain a refund if you decide that is what you want to do.

General Conduct

- Students are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible, mature, and academically honest manner. Be honest in everything you do. Do not present someone else's work as your own.
- Any student caught cheating on an assignment/exam will receive a grade of zero for that assignment/exam and is subject to disciplinary action in accordance with SCC policies. This may include withdrawal from the class.

Computer Access and Email

- You will need regular access to a computer (with Internet access) in order to complete the online assignments that are part of this course.
- You are responsible for completing all assignments on time regardless of any computer or internet issues that may occur.
- You will need a working email address that you CHECK REGULARLY. I do send regular class announcements and information via the email you use to create your MOER account. It is your responsibility to provide a valid email address that you keep up with so that you can receive notifications of class announcements.

Attendance Policy

If you go 7 consecutive days without attending this course, I am required by law to withdraw you. The following is a list of activities that constitute online class "academic attendance" and

“attendance at an academically-related activity” for purposes of determining the last day of attendance according to 34CFR668.22(l)(7)(i):

1. Physically attending a class where there is an opportunity for direct interaction between the instructor and students;
2. Submitting an academic assignment;
3. Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial, or computer-assisted instruction;
4. Attending a study group that is assigned by the institution;
5. Participating in an online discussion about academic matters; and
6. Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course

Late Passes

If you miss an assignment deadline, you can apply a Late Pass to complete the assignment for full credit. Each Late Pass will extend the due date by one day. Multiple late passes can be applied if more time is needed. (65,535 Late Passes available during the semester)

There is no penalty for problems/assignments completed while using a late pass. Late Passes may not be used after the end date of the course.

Instructional Contact Hours and Minimum Course Expectations

This is a 4 credit-hour course in 16 weeks. According to the Federal Credit Hour Definition, students should expect to spend a minimum of 14 hours each week working on the required online assignments that are part of this course.

Instructional contact hours are the weekly time students spend directly learning with their instructor or course activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, discussions, labs, group work, and viewing recordings. Instructional contact hours vary by course; refer to the [MCCCD course bank](#) for your course’s details.

Minimum course expectations include the number of hours students are expected to spend outside of class (weekly) completing coursework. Students are encouraged to use the [Time Management Calculator](#) to help estimate their weekly time commitment for classes.

Course Technologies

View the [Accessibility Statements & Privacy Policies](#) of the technologies used in this course. The [SCC Help Desk](#) provides students with a primary point of contact within SCC for college-supported technology services and technical assistance.

NOTE: Canvas will not be used for this class.

Maricopa Systems

This course uses key Maricopa systems for course management and communication.

- Student Maricopa Gmail Account
- Maricopa Open Educational Resource Learning System (MOER)

MOER: <https://MOER.maricopa.edu/>

Synchronous Communication Tools

Instructor office hours will be conducted through WebEx.

- Webex

Streaming Media/Audio/Video Tools

This course uses YouTube.

- YouTube

Student Assignment Tools

This course requires the following tools and materials:

- TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator - A Graphing calculator is required for this course. Videos in the course that use a calculator always use a TI-83 or TI-84 calculator so either is highly recommended.
- Textbook - Links to download/print/view are available in the course.

Technical Requirements

Students are responsible for meeting these technical requirements in order to begin this class:

- An email address that you check regularly (use this when you set up your MOER account)
- Reliable, high-speed Internet connection
- Webcam (internal or external) and microphone (only if the student needs to take an exam online or meet with the instructor)
- Headphones or working speakers connected to the computer (only if the student needs to take an exam online or meet with the instructor)

Exam Proctoring Tools

Proctored Exams

- Two Proctored Exams (a midterm exam and a final exam) will be given during the semester.
- There is a required review assignment for each exam that IS part of your grade.
- You may use your graphing calculator but NO NOTES on these exams. Calculators that perform symbolic manipulation will not be permitted during any exam: examples include the

TI-89, TI-92, TI-Inspire, HP-48, HP-48G, and Casio 9970. Your cell phone may not be used as a calculator during an exam. Your calculator program memory will be checked prior to each exam and may be cleared if it contains any programs, notes, or formulas related to exam topics.

- You are required to present photo ID in order to take an exam. If you do not have photo ID, you will not be allowed to take the exam. There can be no exceptions to this policy.
- The two proctored exams will be given on campus.
- All exams must be completed in order to earn a grade (A, B, C, D, or F) for this course.
- Make-up Policy: To take an exam late, a student must have extenuating circumstances and must contact me by the day of the exam! I count all missed exams as a 0%. It would then be very unlikely for the student to pass.

Exam Proctoring Options

There are 3 options for taking the midterm and final exam.

Option 1: Instructor-Proctored Exam (Recommended and FREE)

Exams will be given in person on the SCC campus. Dates will be posted in MOER. Bring your calculator, pencils, erasers, and photo ID with you when you come to take these Exams. You will need to know your MEID (not your student ID), and password to be able to log in to school computers. This is the same password as you use to log into your school Gmail account.

Option 2: SCC Testing Center (FREE)

If you are unable to take an exam at these scheduled times on the SCC campus, you can take the exam in person at the SCC Testing Center on or before the due date. The SCC Testing Center is free and by appointment only (no walk-ins). Open the Exam Information folders in MOER for more details. Bring your calculator, pencils, erasers, and photo ID with you when you come to take these Exams. Arrangements for the Testing Center must be made by the instructor at least one week in advance of the scheduled exam. Here is a link to the [SCC Testing Center Website](#) for more information. You will need to know your MEID (not your student ID), and password to be able to log in to school computers. This is the same password as you use to log into your school Gmail account.

Option 3: Find an alternate testing site at a college or university near me (NOT FREE)

Take the exam at an alternate testing center at a college or university near you. You must contact this institution on your own to set this up and relay the contact information to your instructor no later than 2 weeks prior to the exam date.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as “a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike

traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.”

Some examples of generative AI tools include but are not limited to: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Stable Diffusion, GrammarlyGo, and Adobe Firefly.

No Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Allowed

In this class, all work submitted must be your own. The use of generative AI tools will be considered academic misconduct (see Administrative Regulation 2.3.11 1.B(b)) and will be treated as such. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is a generative AI tool, please contact the instructor for further clarification before using the tool or website.

Grading Standards and Practices

Grade Scale

Table 1 Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89.99%
C	70 – 79.99%
D	60 – 69.99%
F	0 – 59.99%

Assignments

Table 2 List of Assignments

Assignment Name	Percent of Grade
Online Assignments (Orientation Quiz, Video Lessons, Homework, Review Assignments)	20%
Online Tests	20%
Midterm Exam and Final Exam	60%
TOTAL:	100%

Final grades are calculated using the scale above. FINAL GRADES ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE. It is unethical to reach out at the end of the semester and request "a few extra points" or discuss the consequences of not earning the grade you want in the class. Messages of this nature will not receive a response.

Student/Instructor Interaction

In this course, you can expect regular and substantive interaction (RSI) that aligns with Scottsdale Community College’s mission to provide challenging and supportive learning experiences and the US Department of Education’s requirement for regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for online courses. My commitment to your success includes the following:

- Being available during office hour appointments as stated in the syllabus.
- Sharing weekly information about the course materials, including key information, explanations, examples, and resources via in-person, recorded, and/or text-based lectures.
- Providing group or individual feedback regularly on assignments.
- Promptly responding to student questions about the course sent via email, MOER messaging, or the Canvas inbox.
- Regularly posting announcements about the course content and activities.
- Monitor your academic progress and communicate concerns, as needed.

Response Time

Students can expect a response time of 24 hours (usually much less) for the instructor to respond to messages sent via the MOER messaging system. Students can expect assignments to be graded within one week of the assignment's due date. If an assignment is not graded within a week, send a message to the instructor and it will be graded within 24 hours of sending that message. This only applies during the dates when the course is active. Please note the end date of the course where the course ends and final grades are not negotiable.

Tutoring

SCC's tutors are available online to help with your courses. You may work with an SCC tutor remotely using Google Meet, your phone, or email. Visit the [Tutoring & Learning Centers](#) page for detailed information on the five learning centers' hours and procedures.

If you need to work with a tutor outside regular hours, online and hybrid students now have access to a 24/7 online tutoring service called Brainfuse. To access Brainfuse and begin working with a tutor, visit the [SCC Online Tutoring Services Through Brainfuse](#) page.

MCCCD Policies

MCCCD is committed to providing a safe, fair, and accessible environment for all students. This includes laws such as the ADA and Title IX, which protect against discrimination. These statements explain your rights, available support, and where to go for help or more information. Please review the following policies:

Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and its associated colleges are committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. physical, sensory, neurological, chronic illness, mental health, learning disabilities, or other health concerns). If you require accommodations for this course, please contact [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS) at your college.

Contact with [DRS](#) should be made as soon as possible to ensure academic needs are met in a reasonable time. Additional information can be found in the [Non-Discrimination Statement](#) and [MCCCD Non-Discrimination Policies](#).

[Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus, the Syllabus page in the Canvas course, and the College Policies & Student Services page located under SCC Student Resources in the Canvas course navigation menu. The instructor will notify students of any changes to course requirements or policies.