

OnRamps College Algebra (ORCA) Syllabus 2024- 2025

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Course Description: OnRamps College Algebra is a dual enrollment course. This means you are simultaneously enrolled in a College Algebra (M301) course through UT and a high school Algebra 2 course for which I am your instructor. We will explore the topics through Inquiry-Based Learning. Because the course is dual enrollment, there are different expectations for assignments and grading for the two courses.

Recommended Materials: 3-ring Binder, pencils, notebook paper, laptop (every day)

Course Content:

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Unit 1: Thinking Like a Mathematician	Unit 7: Polynomial Functions
Unit 2: Functions	Unit 8: Modeling and Data Analysis
Unit 3: Systems	Unit 9: Rational and Radical Functions
Unit 4: Matrices	Unit 10: Exponents, Logs and e
Unit 5: Quadratic Functions	Unit 11: Sequences and Series (not tested for College Course)
Unit 6: Complex Numbers	Unit 12: Right Triangle Trig and the Unit Circle (not tested for College Course) if time permits.

Explanation Grading and Assignments:

College Exams: There will be three college exams, a midterm in the fall, 3 college exams, and a final exam in the spring. These exams will be taken online during class time. These exams are 75% of the UT grade. College Exams are not eligible for retakes.

Each exam is comprised of 2 parts:

- Part 1: Multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions (75% of the college exam grade will be used for a HS exam grade) This is a 45-minute timed test. Calculators are not permitted.
- Part 2: Open-ended questions graded by a UT instructor. (25% of the college exam grade and may be used for a HS exam grade) This is a 30-minute timed test. Calculators are permitted occasionally. This section may take 2-3 weeks for UT instructors to score and finalize the grades.

High School Quizzes: These will be given throughout the year covering topics before taking a unit exam and will allow students to familiarize themselves with the format and types of questions that will be used on their College Exams. Quizzes will be given during class time and will model the testing environment for your College Exam. These will count as a major grade in the high school course. You will be given a retake

option for one week following the quiz. The maximum grade for retake is 70%.

Exercise Assessments: This is taken on Canvas after every College Exam. There will be a one-week window to complete the assessment outside of class time. Students are allowed to use notes and peers on the assessment but not instructors. The Exercise Assessment counts as 10% of the UT grade and counts as a quiz grade(major) for our high school course.

College Homework: This will be completed throughout the school year and is graded based on completion. If the entire assignment is genuinely attempted, there is no penalty for incorrect answers. Students are allowed to use notes and peers on College Homework assignments. These assignments count as 8% of the UT grade and as a HW grade (minor) in the high school course.

High School Homework: This will be assigned weekly. Students will be given time to discuss their answers with peers and ask questions. This will be graded based on completion and uploaded as a PDF to the Canvas High School course by midnight on Friday each week

Exercises: These will generally be completed during class to allow students the opportunity to collaborate with peers and take ownership of the course content. Students will upload the completed exercises to the Canvas High School course each week.

OnRamps Orientation: This is completed once at the beginning of the school year. Students will receive a completion grade in the college course and two 100-minor grades in the high school course for completing orientation. This counts as 2% of the UT grade.

Learning Strategies Modules: These will take place in three phases: at the beginning of the year after your first exam, and at the beginning of the spring semester. OnRamps Learning modules are graded based on completion and count as 5% of the UT grade.

Presentations/Collaboration: Students are expected to collaborate with peers on Exercises and present their work to the class throughout the school year.

Late Work:

- Late work is not allowed on any College assignments. Any extenuating circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the OnRamps course staff and HW instructor.
- High School late work is accepted up to 3 days after the due date with a 10-point deduction per day late.

**Note: All Homework and Exercises will be uploaded as a PDF to Canvas by the stated due dates. I recommend Genius Scan as a useful tool for converting pictures to PDF.

Eligibility to Earn College Credit: Students' eligibility will be determined by UT based on the first semester grades. To be eligible for credit, the student must have a minimum grade of 60% at UT Austin. At the end of the year, eligible students will decide whether to accept or deny their earned credit (college credit that can transfer to many schools).

Tutorials: Monday and Tuesday during lunch. If you are lost and find yourself having questions about multiple homework problems, please come to tutorials. Also, tutorial time is a great opportunity to meet up with peers to work on UT assignments together.

High School and College Grade Comparison		
Topic	High School Grade	UT Grade
Grading Periods	6-week cycles/semester grades	Year grade (1 st semester determines eligibility for college credit)
Grade Weights	70% Major, 30% Minor	Varies by assignment type
College Exam (Fall: 3 Exams + Midterm; Spring: 3 Exams + Final)	Part 1: Major Grade – Actual grade earned (no retakes)	75% of UT Grade
Exercise Assessments (After each college exam)	Minor Grade – Actual grade earned	10% of UT Grade
Learning Strategy Modules (3 given throughout year)	Minor Grade – completion based	5% of UT Grade
High School Quizzes (1-2 per grading cycle)	Major Grade – Actual grade earned (retakes available 70% max)	DOES NOT COUNT towards UT grade
Exercises/ High School Homework (weekly)	Minor Grade – completion based	DOES NOT COUNT towards UT grade
College Homework (1-2 per unit)	Minor Grade – completion based	8% of UT Grade
Student Orientation (once at the beginning of the year)	2 Minor Grades– completion based	2% of UT Grade
Presentations/Collaboration (daily)	Minor Grade – Must present once per cycle	DOES NOT COUNT towards UT grade
Midterm/ Final*	10% of Semester Grade	Regular Exam Grade; 75%

*Note: Midterm/Final is given during UT's midterm/final exam window which may be earlier than Westside's midterm/final exam window but will still be used for our High School Semester Exam grades.

Parent/Guardian Page

(Please have your parent/guardian read the syllabus and tear off and return just this page by Friday, Sept. 1st)

Parents/Guardians: I am so excited to have the opportunity to be your child's teacher this school year and help them earn some college credit along the way with OnRamps College Algebra. I thank you in advance for the support I am sure you will provide both myself and your child to further their education. I also encourage you to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns about the class itself or your child's performance. Power School is an excellent resource for keeping track of your student's progress in my class. I will make sure to update it as quickly as possible and ask that you periodically check their grades to make sure there are no surprises at the end of the grading cycle. Email is the most efficient way to communicate with me. My email address is ttaylor4@houstonisd.org. I look forward to working with you and your student.

Student Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

It is best to reach me at Parent email: _____

and/ or Parent Phone #: _____

Any additional Comments: