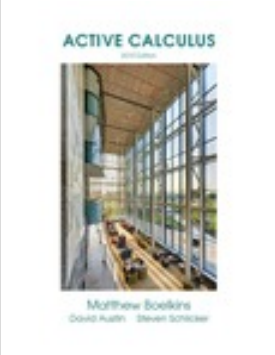
Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

The California Open Educational Resources Council 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). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, and the University of California were invited to review the selected free and open etextboks 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:

Active Calculus



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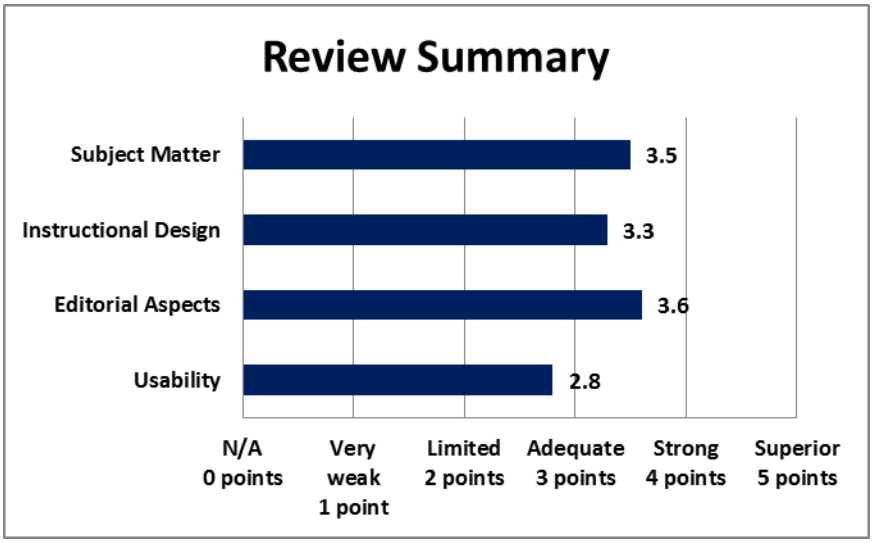
Format Reviewed:
Online

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Date Reviewed:
August 2015



California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: MATH 210

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: 21 out of 30

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

- This textbook covers all the content required for a first-semester calculus class, plus a little more if you want to move ahead. It is not meant to be used as a self-learning tool because no explanation is provided for the preview problems or in-class activities. It should be used more like a workbook. The examples are good basic examples.

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: 23 out of 35

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

- Each section of the textbook has a preview activity and in-class activities embedded in the text. At the beginning of each section, there are "motivating questions" which could pass for learning outcomes.

- The text is well-written; it is easy to understand. It is meant as an interactive textbook. There are no solutions to the preview activities and in-class activities in the textbook. The instructor needs to present it in class or have the students work it out as an exercise.

- There are 4 exercises (yes, only 4) at the end of each section.

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 latid0out 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: 18 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

- The graphics for this textbook are limited to geometric figures and graphs of functions. There is no animation or audio.

- The book is well-organized. The font and spacing make it easy to read.

- This textbook has some the conventional editorial features. It contains a table of contents and index. There is a table of integrals in the back -- with 11 integrals. The answers to exercises are not in the back of the textbook like most math texts.

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: 14 out of 25

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

- This textbook is available in PDF format. It can be printed.
- To annotate the text, the user needs to have a PDF software (not the reader) installed.
- All the links in the document work. It helps with the navigation.

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

Total Points: 5 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

- This textbook covers all the content required for a first-semester calculus class, plus a little more if you want to move ahead. It is not meant to be used as a self-learning tool. If you reformat the textbook, you can turn it into a workbook. You may want to supplement it with more rigorous examples and exercises.

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

- The exercises are limited in scope and number. An increase in the number of exercises would be nice. I would also like to see more depth in the subject matter.

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.)

CALIFORNIA OER COUNCIL
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For questions or more information, contact the CA Open Educational Resources Council.

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