Math 4/4C Syllabus

College Algebra for STEM Majors

Spring 2026

Course Information

Course:	Math 4 – College Algebra for STEM Majors (Section 2442) Math 4C – Co-requisite Support (Section 2447)
Meeting Times:	Monday & Wednesday Math 4: 9:00 AM – 11:05 AM Math 4C: 11:15 AM – 12:05 PM
Location:	Bundy Campus, Room 221
Semester:	February 17 – June 16, 2026
Final Exam:	Wednesday, June 11, 2026, 8:00–11:00 AM
Instructor:	Safaa Dabagh
Email:	dabagh_safaa@smc.edu
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday, 8:00–8:50 AM, Bundy 221 and by appointment
Textbook:	*College Algebra* by Carl Stitz & Jeff Zeager Free online (click here)
Technology:	Desmos Graphing Calculator (free, no account required)

Welcome

My name is Safaa Dabagh—you may call me Safaa. Feel free to reach out via email or come to my office hours if our class prompts you to want to learn more about mathematics; this is my favorite part about teaching. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my children.

Course Description

Math 4 is intended for STEM majors and serves as a prerequisite for Math 7 (Calculus 1). Topics include:

- Algebra fundamentals, relations, and functions
- Solving equations and inequalities
- Polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions
- Systems of equations and matrices
- Analytic geometry and conic sections
- Sequences, series, binomial theorem, and mathematical induction

Math 4C is a co-requisite course reviewing core algebraic concepts that support success in Math 4. Both courses must be taken concurrently.

This course can be challenging, both in terms of the breadth of the subject matter and its complexity. Almost every student will be challenged by course material at some point this term. Students who are most successful attend class consistently, complete all assignments, thoughtfully review feedback, develop good study strategies, and take advantage of academic support resources. If you are having a hard time, please do not wait until the end of the term to seek guidance. I will be in a much better position to support your learning if you seek support early.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. Given a rational, exponential, or logarithmic function, analyze the function and create a graph including key information such as shape, intercepts, removable discontinuities, asymptotes, and crossing asymptotes.
2. Solve equations and inequalities involving rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
3. Given an English-language description of a mathematical, social, practical, or physical situation, determine a function, equation, or inequality that models the situation, and use numerical information to solve the problem.

Grading Policy

Component	**Weight**
Quizzes	5%
Homework	5%
In-Class Assignments	5%
Exams (3 Midterms)	50%
Final Exam	35%
Total	**100%**

A	**B**	**C**	**D**	**F**
90–100%	80–89%	70–79%	60–69%	Below 60%

Technology: Desmos

We will use **Desmos** (desmos.com/calculator) as our primary graphing tool throughout the course. Desmos is free, works in any web browser, and requires no account or download. You will use Desmos to:

- Graph and analyze functions
- Explore transformations visually
- Verify algebraic solutions
- Investigate real-world applications

I will provide Desmos activities and demonstrations during class. You are encouraged to use Desmos on homework and practice problems.

Important Dates

Date	Event
Wednesday, February 18	First Day of Class
Monday, February 16	Presidents' Day – Campus Closed (No Class)
Wednesday, March 25	**Exam 1** (Chapters 1–3)
Tuesday, March 31	Cesar Chavez Day – Campus Closed (MW not affected)
April 13–19	Spring Break – No Classes
Wednesday, April 29	**Exam 2** (Chapters 4–6)
Monday, May 25	Memorial Day – Campus Closed (No Class)
Wednesday, May 20	**Exam 3** (Chapters 7–8)
Wednesday, June 11	**Final Exam** (Cumulative), 8:00–11:00 AM
June 16	Last Day of Spring Semester

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Monday	Wednesday
1	Feb 18	*Presidents' Day – No Class*	Introduction; 1.1 Sets of Real Numbers & Cartesian Coordinate Plane
2	Feb 23–25	1.2 Relations	1.3–1.4 Introduction to Functions & Function Notation
3	Mar 2–4	1.5 Function Arithmetic	1.6–1.7 Graphs of Functions & Transformations
4	Mar 9–11	2.1–2.2 Linear Functions & Absolute Value Functions	2.3–2.4 Quadratic Functions & Inequalities
5	Mar 16–18	2.5 Regression; Review	3.1–3.2 Graphs of Polynomials & The Factor Theorem
6	Mar 23–25	3.3–3.4 Real Zeros & Complex Zeros	**Exam 1 (Chapters 1–3)**
7	Mar 30 – Apr 1	4.1–4.2 Intro to Rational Functions & Graphs of Rational Functions	4.3 Rational Inequalities & Applications
8	Apr 6–8	5.1–5.2 Function Composition & Inverse Functions	5.3 Other Algebraic Functions; Module 5 Tools
	Apr 13–19	*Spring Break – No Classes*	
9	Apr 20–22	6.1–6.2 Introduction to Exponential & Logarithmic Functions	6.3 Logarithmic Properties

Week	Dates	Monday	Wednesday
10	Apr 27–29	6.4–6.5 Equations & Applications; Review	**Exam 2 (Chapters 4–6)**
11	May 4–6	7.1–7.2 Systems of Linear Equations (Two Variables)	7.3 Systems of Linear Equations (Three Variables)
12	May 11–13	7.5 Matrices & Matrix Arithmetic	8.1–8.2 Intro to Conics; Circles
13	May 18–20	8.3–8.4 Parabolas & Ellipses; Review	**Exam 3 (Chapters 7–8)**
14	May 25–27	*Memorial Day – No Class*	8.5–8.7 Hyperbolas & Conic Sections
15	Jun 1–3	9.1–9.2 Sequences & Series	9.3–9.4 Induction & Binomial Theorem; Review
	Jun 11	**Final Exam (Cumulative) – Wednesday, June 11, 8:00–11:00 AM**	

Note: This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted as needed. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

Classroom Policies

Attendance

Attendance is very important. You are responsible for any announcements made in class, including any changes to the schedule. A student may be dropped for excessive absences (10% or more of the classes). If you decide to drop this class, it is your responsibility to drop officially, online or at the Admissions Office. See the official class schedule for relevant dates.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to follow the college's academic integrity policy. Cheating or plagiarism will result in disciplinary action.

Late Work and Makeup Policy

Late homework will not be accepted without prior arrangement. Missed exams cannot be made up unless the absence is due to a documented emergency. Contact the instructor as soon as possible if you anticipate missing an exam.

Classroom Expectations

- Arrive on time and stay for the entire class period.
- Silence cell phones before class begins.
- Be respectful of your classmates and the instructor.
- Participate actively in class discussions and activities.
- Come prepared—bring your notes, textbook access, and a device for Desmos.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

I aim to create a learning environment in which all students can learn, and I honor your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). Every student brings different experiences that will enrich the course content, and I strive to do my best to respect this diversity throughout the semester. If you have an experience related to the class that contradicts this commitment, or there is an aspect of the course that could be reasonably modified to improve your learning, please contact me.

Here is a link to the Student Code of Conduct (AR 4410).

Title IX: Title IX is a comprehensive federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. Students who have experienced some form of sexual misconduct or discrimination are encouraged to talk to someone about their experience so they can get the support they need. Contact Lisa Winter, Compliance Administrator & Title IX Coordinator, at 310-434-4225.

Students with Disabilities

Santa Monica College accommodates students with disabilities. If you qualify for any special accommodations due to a disability, you need to officially process your request through the Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) office as close to the beginning of the semester as possible. An early notification of your request for test-taking and/or other accommodations is necessary to ensure that your needs are addressed appropriately; testing accommodations cannot be applied retroactively. More information can be found on the DSPS website.

Student Support Resources

- **Math Lab:** Free tutoring available at the SMC Math Lab.
- **Counseling:** Academic and personal counseling available through Student Services.
- **Library:** Research support and quiet study spaces.
- **Desmos:** desmos.com/calculator — free graphing calculator, no account needed.
- **Textbook:** Free online textbook (Stitz & Zeager).

Disclaimer

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus as needed. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.