

Math 58: Math Literacy Part I



Portland Community College

CRN:11155, 4 Credits

M-W 6:00 to 8:20 pm

Remote Class CA

Winter 2026

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Instructor:

Usha Patel

Phone: 971-722-3707

E-mail: ushaben.patel@pcc.edu

You Belong Here!

Welcome to the PCC community and to our class. I hope you will find this community to be a very special place. I love working here and am grateful for the opportunity to work with and learn from all of you. I value and appreciate students from all backgrounds, races, ethnicities, ages, documentation statuses, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, abilities, sizes, shapes, socio-economic backgrounds and educational background.



Email is the best way to contact me. My student hours are 30 minutes before or after class. During these times, my office is open for you to stop by, ask questions, or gather resources. If you would like to schedule a time for an individual meeting, please feel free to email me or check in with me before or after class to schedule a specific day or a specific time.

Respect for Diversity

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well served by this course, that students' learning needs be addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally or for other students or student groups. In addition, if any of our class meetings conflict with your religious events, please let me know so that we can make arrangements for you.

Teaching Philosophy

I believe education helps us live more fulfilling, productive lives by developing our ability to analyze information, think critically to come up with possible solutions, and verify whether or not our solutions actually make sense. Through the study of math, I hope my students become more comfortable embracing the confusion that comes with learning anything new. My goal is to provide students with a safe and supportive environment where they can work through confusion to build new understanding, and become more confident in their ability to analyze, problem solve and verify. I admire your willingness to be a student: to make yourself open and vulnerable while working with others in order to learn and grow.

Grading

My goal is that every part of our class will help you master new skills and concepts by examining and practicing the material in different ways. We will work through new material together in class (Group Work on Jam Board), and you will practice it outside of class through online skill building (Connect Math and Spreadsheets) and written assignments (Class problems and Applications). We will then review the material in small groups, assess current understanding (Quizzes),

reflect and review (Practice Exam, Portfolio & Reflection), and finally communicate what we have learned (Exams). I believe no single assessment can fully capture all a student has learned or is capable of doing. My hope is that the combination of many different types of assignments gives an accurate picture of each student's growth and understanding of the material covered. Grades are not a reflection of a student's worth, but a measure of the understanding a student has communicated and demonstrated during the term.

Grades:

ALEKS/Spreadsheets/Applications And Pre-Class homework	40%
Weekly Quizzes	10%
Group Work	15%
Group Project	5%
<u>Exams (2 @ 15% each) 1`</u>	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

A (90-100%)	B (80-89%)	C (70-79%)
D (60-69%) No Credit Awarded F (0-59%)		
Pass (70-100%)		No Pass (0-69%)

Course Description

This course introduces pattern recognition, estimation and number sense, working with units, spreadsheets, linear equations and inequalities. Students will explore how to clearly communicate arguments supported by quantitative evidence using words, tables, graphs, and mathematical equations. Instruction is carried out through collaborative learning and group interaction.

Prerequisite

MTH 20 and (WR 80 or ESOL 252) and (RD 80 or ESOL 250) or equivalent placement.

Link to Course Content and Outcomes:

<http://www.pcc.edu/ccog/default.cfm?fa=ccog&subject=MTH&course=58>

Required Materials

Pathways to Math Literacy with **ALEKS Math Access Code, 3rd Edition** by Dave Sobecki and Brian Mercer. ISBN 9781264686377 (**IMPORTANT: KEEP ALEKS ACCESS CODE**)

Buy a **NEW BOOK** and **BE SURE TO KEEP THE ALEKS ACCESS CODE ON HALF SHEET CARDBOARD INSERT- If you lose it you are in big trouble!!**)



Required

PATHWAYS TO MATH LITERACY W/ALEKS 360

Author: SOBECKI
Edition: 3RD 24
ISBN: 9781264686377

Print

\$117.35 New

\$88.05 Used

● Online homework, quizzes and tests are in ALEKS.

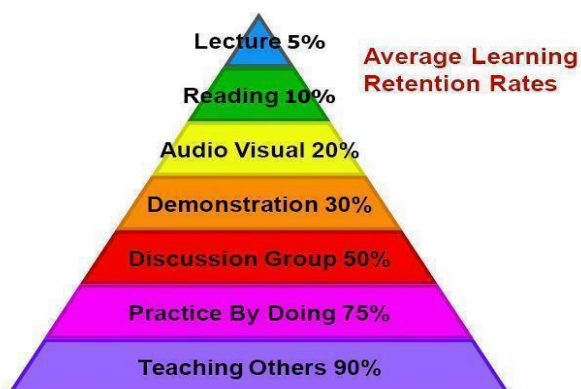
- To activate your *ALEKS* account.
 - Go to our D2L site and select the "ALEKS" tab.
 - **Your Class Code is: 9DPK9-ELYPE**
 - **If you do not get your code before the start of the class, use the following Financial aid code-good for only two weeks.**
 - **Your Financial Aid Access Code is:74014-F5B79-E6417-4298E**
The Financial Aid Access Code does not add an additional two weeks to your account.
NOTE: This code gives you temporary access to ALEKS for a two-week period. Once the code expires, you will be locked out of your ALEKS account until you purchase a regular Student Access Code. **It is highly recommended that you purchase the Student Access Code BEFORE the two weeks expire** to prevent interruptions with your ALEKS account.
 1. To log into ALEKS using the Financial Aid Access Code, go to:
<https://www.aleks.com>.
 2. Click on the "**SIGN UP**" link located in the menu at the upper-right of the page.
 3. Enter your **Class Code** in the box and click on "**Continue**."
 4. Verify that you are registering for the correct class and click on "Confirm."
 5. Continue with the registration process until your account has been set up successfully.
 6. On the Apply Access page, enter the 20 character Financial Aid Access Code and click "Continue."
 7. Next you will see a page with the date your temporary access expires, click "Continue."
 8. You will arrive at the **My Classes** page.
 9. You can extend your access to your new class at any time by selecting "**Extend access**" from the class tile menu and enter your new access code. **You do not need to create a new ALEKS account to continue your class**
- Scientific Calculator such as the TI-30XS (should include a square root and exponent button).
- Regular and reliable access to the internet (this can be the free computer lab on campus).
- A 3-Ring binder just for this class and 5 dividers (or post it notes / flags / tabs)

Online Course Home

We will use D2L (Desire2Learn) as the online home for our course. D2L can be accessed directly at <https://online.pcc.edu> or from your MyPCC homepage by selecting D2L in the right sidebar, or selecting the MyCourses tab. On our D2L site, you will **find weekly** folders with the Schedule and Assignments and other related information. **In** D2L, you can also view your current grade, access assignments through the “Assignments” tab, link to ALEKS and Desmos, answer keys to Practice Exams, Videos **for** Class, Group and Applications problems **and** other content

Class Culture

In every Math 58 class, **students will work on applications of mathematics in a group setting**. This class will not include traditional lectures and instead will challenge you as a student to discover patterns and think critically. I will help guide you through activities, assist with questions, and hopefully raise questions/critical thoughts as well. This class encourages active learning and engagement with the ideas of those around you. You will find yourself thinking deeply, learning from mistakes, asking and answering questions and transforming confusion into understanding. There is no greater way to learn than to experience something for yourself first hand.



Source: National Training Laboratories, Bethel, Maine

Set yourself up for success in Math 58

- ✓ Be willing to work with many different classmates
- ✓ Participate willingly in class activities, class discussions and small group problem-solving
- ✓ Collaborate with classmates – share ideas, listen carefully, help others, ask for help
- ✓ Ask lots questions
- ✓ Make conjectures and share possible answers or partial solutions (especially ones you are uncertain about)
- ✓ Record strategies and mathematical ideas that develop in class discussions and small group problem solving
- ✓ Get settled in your workspace 10 minutes before our Zoom class starts, prepared with assignments and tools (e.g., calculator, pencil, textbook, class problems), as well as your questions.

Assignments

You may upload your book work Assignments in D2L. Uploading Assignments to Spreadsheet assignments and the Portfolio and Reflection can be uploaded to


D2L directly from your computer. Applications, Quizzes work, and the Midterm and Final work may be scanned and then uploaded to D2L for bonus points. Each of these assignments should be uploaded as a single, multi-page PDF. To do this, please download a scanner app to your phone (such as Scanbot, TinyScanner or AdobeScan), or use the scan function on your printer. This will work better if you upload the free scan software or app associated with your printer. Low cost printers are available through the PCC Bookstore and may be covered by financial aid

For help uploading assignments as a Single PDF (or other tech help), contact the Student Help Desk by calling 971-722-8222 or using their live chat support at <https://www.pcc.edu/help-desk/>

Homework (40%)

The practice you get through doing homework will help you to understand and retain the material, and successfully communicate what you have learned on quizzes and exams. You should plan to spend 5 to 10 hours per week outside of class studying and working on problems for the class. If possible, spend some of that time in the online tutoring center or in a virtual study group with classmates so you can work with others.

The lowest 4 homework scores will be dropped at the end of the term.



Embrace Confusion.
"Confusion is the beginning of
Wisdom."
-Socrates

We have five different types of homework assignments:

1. **Spreadsheets** These assignments use the Google Sheets or Excel software to explore concepts covered by lessons in the book. To access and submit these assignments, go to our D2L site and select the "Assignments" tab.
2. **ALEKS Assignments** These are online assignments designed to help learn and practice material related to each lesson in the book. Assignments open in advance before they are due. The problems should be started BEFORE we work through the related lesson to preview the material. Take advantage of the "help buttons" that walk you through examples and attempt to explain the material and concepts.
3. **Class Problems and Book Applications** These assignments need to be completed in your textbook for each lesson. Class Problems also known as Pre-class homework. You must do them before learning the lesson in the class. Videos will be provided. You can watch the videos and take notes if you need help. You can ask questions in class and you will also need to answer the questions in class from this lesson. Application problems need to be done after

doing group questions. Please make sure to correct your work using the Videos provided in D2L.

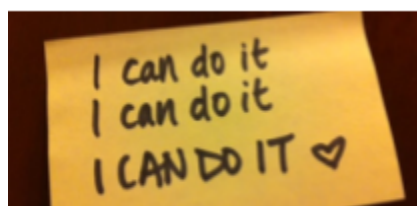
4. **Quizzes (10%)** Quizzes will be assigned in ALEKS. Once your quiz has been graded, you may do quiz corrections to earn back the points missed. *Your lowest quiz score will be dropped at the end of the term.*
5. **Portfolio with Reflection-Extra Credit:** Your portfolio is a record of your work in this course. You will self-assess your portfolio twice: on the day of the Midterm, and the day of the Final. The portfolio is designed to help you stay organized, prepare for quizzes and exams, and reflect on your learning. You must add the corrections for quizzes and exams in here for extra credit.

Group Work (15%) Most of your time in this class will be spent investigating mathematical concepts through Group questions from your textbook with your groupmates. Sometimes you may take a few minutes to think about a difficult question on your own, but then you should discuss your thoughts and ideas with your group. Humans process thoughts and learn through conversation with others and sharing ideas. Each group will then write their work on the Jam Board. Attendance and active participation are important to your learning and success in this course. If you have a conflict and cannot attend a class, please email me your Group questions to stay on track and to make up the group work points. To make up for this work, you can watch the videos and the notes in Google Jam Board or connect with someone in your group. If I am absent or class is canceled, check your PCC email by the end of the day for information. *Your lowest group work grade will be dropped at the end of the term.*



Exams (30%) There will be a Midterm covering the first half of the material we explore, and a Final covering all the material in the class. [Midterm and Final Exams](#) will be Virtually Proctored. Detailed proctored info is also available in the class detail page.

Extensions for exams will be given in the case of unexpected conflicts. *If you have an emergency and cannot take an exam at the scheduled time, please email me as soon as possible so that we can set up an alternative in the testing center.*



Important College Policies and Information

Title IX / Non-Discrimination Portland Community College is committed to creating and fostering a learning and working environment based on open communication and mutual respect. If you believe you have encountered sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, veteran status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Office of Equity and Inclusion at [\(971\) 722-5840](tel:9717225840) or email equity.inclusion@pcc.edu website: www.pcc.edu/safe *You are also welcome to talk to me, just know that all PCC instructors are “mandatory reporters” and so are legally required to ensure a report is made when abuse is observed or suspected. However, I can help you connect with designated confidential people at PCC in the counseling office and many of our resource centers.*

PCC is a sanctuary college Information and resources at www.pcc.edu/resources/undocumented-students

Accessibility and Accommodations I am committed to supporting all students. If you have an accommodation form from Disability Services, please make arrangements with me privately to discuss your needs. To request academic accommodations, please contact DS at 971-722-6340 or <http://www.pcc.edu/resources/disability>
[This video from PCC's Basic Needs Hub](#)

Academic Integrity Being a successful student requires you to develop a strong sense of personal and professional integrity. Completing your own academic work is a requirement of PCC. Students that engage in any form of academic dishonesty will receive a verbal and written warning. Further academic dishonesty can result in a zero for the test or assignment, an F for the class and/or charges for violation of the Student Conduct Code.

Classroom Recordings

You are enrolled in a course that uses Zoom video and audio communications. I will be recording our full class discussion so you can review as necessary. These recordings will be shared only with students who are registered for your course. Breakout rooms are never recorded. Students are required to follow the guidelines for recording provided by PCC's [Student Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures](#). I will notify you before recording a class meeting. If you'd like to opt-out of being video recorded, you can turn off your video in Zoom. Your audio or chat responses will still be recorded.

Audits: Students must obtain instructor permission to audit a course by the deadline posted by the college.

Registration and Dropping

Students may attend this course only if registered. Students who are unable to attend must drop the course online or through the Registration Office. To have tuition charges removed, the course must be dropped by the student before the drop deadline posted on MyPCC and in the class schedule. **If you stop coming to class, you should officially withdraw.** A student who does not attend class and does not officially withdraw will receive a failing grade (F or NP) for the course due to college policy. **Drop and Withdrawal Deadlines** www.pcc.edu/registration/dropping

Pass/No Pass Grades:

Choose a grading option of letter grade (A-F), or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) via the computer registration system by the deadline posted by the college. Talk with your advisor as some degree/certification programs may not accept Pass/No pass grades.

Incompletes

Incompletes are rarely given, and allowed only if at least 75% of the work is already completed, with a current grade of "C" or above. A contract for completion must be signed by the student and instructor to receive an incomplete.

PCC Grading Guidelines

<http://www.pcc.edu/resources/academic/standardspractices/AcademicStandardsandPractices-GradingGuidelines.html>)

PCC Code of Student Conduct

<http://www.pcc.edu/about/policy/student-rights/studentrights.pdf#academicintegrity>



PCC Resources

<https://www.pcc.edu/resources/#student>

PCC wants you to be successful and have resources that may help. If you face challenges affording food or housing, or if you need access to technology, this will naturally affect your classwork.

STUDENT COVID-19 RESOURCES

<https://www.pcc.edu/coronavirus/information-for-students/resources/>

EMERGENCY FUNDS www.pcc.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/emergency-funds.html

COUNSELING Up to 8 free sessions call 971-722-8153

<https://www.pcc.edu/counseling/>

TUTORING Drop-in or “by appointment” tutoring with PCC math instructors is available in a zoom room by going to www.pcc.edu/tutoring, or clicking on the “Online Tutoring” tab in our D2L page.

General online e-tutoring is also available, free to all PCC students:

<https://www.pcc.edu/tutoring/online/>

ADVISING <https://www.pcc.edu/advising/>

CAREER EXPLORATION CENTER

<https://www.pcc.edu/resources/careers/career-exploration/>

STUDENT LEADERSHIP / ASPCC: <https://www.pcc.edu/student-leadership/>

DISABILITY SERVICES <https://www.pcc.edu/disability-services/>

STUDENT CONDUCT AND RETENTION COORDINATOR

<https://www.pcc.edu/student-conduct/conduct/>

CHILDCARE <https://www.pcc.edu/child-care/>

VETERAN’S RESOURCE CENTER <https://www.pcc.edu/veterans/>

WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER <https://www.pcc.edu/women/>

QUEER RESOURCE CENTER <https://www.pcc.edu/queer/>

MULTICULTURAL CENTER <https://www.pcc.edu/multicultural/>

Community Resources

- Call to Safety, 503-235-5333, <https://calltosafety.org/resources/>
- <https://www.auntbertha.com/>
- <https://www.211info.org/>
- Multnomah County Mental Health Line, 503-988-4888
- Columbia County Mental Health Line, 503-397-6161
- Washington County Crisis Line, 503-291-9111
- Yamhill County Crisis Line, 503-434-7523
- Clackamas County 24-hour Crisis Line, 503-655-8585

