

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for NMAT 207

PRE-ALGEBRA

Effective: Fall 2019

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

NMAT 207 — Noncredit

This course is intended to serve as a bridge between arithmetic and Elementary Algebra. It includes a review of arithmetic, operations involving signed integers, fractions, and decimals, variables and variable expressions, simple linear equations and their graphs, percent and proportion, introduction to statistics, geometry and measurement, and application problems. Students can petition to get credit for the credit Math 107 course by examination.

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Mathematics-Basic Skills: Noncredit

Noncredit Category

C - Elementary and Secondary Basic Skills

	MIN
Total Noncredit Hours:	108.00

II. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

III. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Perform accurate computations with whole numbers, fractions and decimals, signed and unsigned, without using a calculator
- B. Simplify and evaluate variable expressions
- C. Calculate ratios, proportions and percentages and demonstrate their application
- D. Identify geometric figures and explain their properties
- E. Use the English and metric units of length, area, volume, mass, temperature and time;
- F. Solve linear equations involving multiple steps
- G. Analyze and construct graphs of data
- H. Construct graphs of linear equations in two variables in a rectangular coordinate system
- I. Calculate mean, median and mode from a set of data
- J. Apply the concepts learned to specific real-life applications, such as, simple interest, business and finance, restaurants, bank statements, etc.

IV. CONTENT:

- A. The real numbering system
 1. Natural numbers and integers
 2. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of signed numbers
 3. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of fractions
 4. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of signed decimals
 5. Order of operations using signed numbers
- B. Properties of operations
 - a. Commutative law
 - b. Associative law
 - c. Distribute law
- C. Algebraic Expressions
 1. Evaluate
 2. Simplify using order of operations
- D. Linear equations in one variable
 1. Solve simple equations using the addition and multiplication property of equality
 2. Solve multi-step equations using the above, combining like terms and the distributive property
- E. Percent
 1. Ratio and proportion
 2. Solving percent problems with equations
 3. Application Problems: Example include but not limited to:
 - a. Percentages: Compute sales price or amount of a sales tax
 - b. Rate: use unit pricing to determine the best buy
- F. Geometric figures and formulas
 1. Perimeters
 2. Area
 3. Volume

4. Triangles: Similar and Right
5. Pythagorean Theorem and square roots
6. Application Problems: Example include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Similar triangles, for example, measuring the height of a tree
 - b. Solving for the unknown length given a right triangle situation
 - c. Computing the cost of building a home or carpeting a room
- G. The English and metric systems
 1. Length
 2. Area
 3. Volume
 4. Mass
 5. Time
 6. Temperature
- H. Statistics and graphing
 1. Mean, median and mode
 2. Interpret graphs
- I. Linear Equations in Two Variables
 1. Solutions of linear equations in two variables
 2. Table of Solutions
 3. Graphing by point-plotting

V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. Classroom or small group discussion
- B. Lectures and Tutorials
- C. Computer assisted instruction (e.g., ALEKS or My Math Lab)
- D. Collaborative exercises on designated content
- E. Laboratory activities

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Lab Activities/Computer Assisted Instruction
 1. Find a partner in the class and measure your heights two ways, one with a tape measure and two using similar triangle and shadows.
 2. Take an initial personalized interactive assessment of your skills on the computer using an appropriate computer software program.
 3. Practice simplifying algebraic expressions and continue to take the computer assessment on this topic until mastered.
- B. Homework-typical problems
 1. A wedding-cake recipe requires 12 cups of shortening. Being calorie conscious, the wedding couple decides to reduce the shortening by $3\frac{5}{8}$ cups and replace it with prune puree. How many cups of shortening are used in the new recipe?
 2. Evaluate $a + (b-a)^2$, for $a = 6$ and $b = 4$.
 3. The population of a town increased by 3500 to 4200. Find the percentage of increase in population.
 4. Solve $9(x - 4) + 13 = 4x + 12$.
- C. Collaborative learning exercises collected at the end of class
 1. A piece of land, to be used as a park, has been donated to the school. You are a member of the Student Design Committee, which will be responsible for the layout and design of the park. Use the diagram of the part on page 2 to make your plans as you work with the committee to answer the questions in Part I. Part II will be the final report from the design committee.
 2. Complete the "Just State the Facts" worksheet on adding and multiplying mixed numbers.

VII. EVALUATION:

Methods/Frequency

- A. Exams/Tests

Recommend minimum of four exams plus the cumulative final.
- B. Class Work

Time should be allowed in class for students to apply the concepts being covered. This can be done individually, in groups or as part of projects.
- C. Home Work

Homework should be assigned for each section covered.
- D. Lab Activities

Recommend minimum of eight laboratory assignments over the semester.
- E. Other
 1. Comprehensive final examination.

VIII. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Martin-Gay, E. (2018). *Prealgebra* (8th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson/Addison-Wesley.
2. Rockswold, G.K., & Krieger, T.A. (2016). *Interactive Developmental Mathematics* (1st ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson/Addison-Wesley.
3. Lial, M.L., & Hestwood, D.L. (2017). *Prealgebra* (6th ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson/Addison-Wesley.

IX. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: