Precalculus Algebra

CREDIT HOURS
3

LEVEL
LOWER

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Before You Choose This UExcel Exam

Uses for the Examination

• Excelsior College, the test developer, recommends granting three (3) semester hours of lower-level undergraduate credit to students who receive a letter grade of C or higher on this examination. The examination may be used to help fulfill the course requirement for the BS in General Business or as a free elective for all Excelsior College degree programs that allow for free electives.

• Other colleges and universities also recognize this exam as a basis for granting credit or advanced standing.

• Individual institutions set their own policies for the amount of credit awarded and the minimum acceptable score.

Exam-takers who have applied to Excelsior College should ask their academic advisor where this exam fits within their degree program.

Exam-takers not enrolled in an Excelsior College degree program should check with the institution from which they wish to receive credit to determine whether credit will be granted and/or to find out the minimum grade required for credit. Those who intend to enroll at Excelsior College should ask an admissions counselor where this exam fits within their intended degree program.

Examination Length and Scoring

The examination consists of approximately 60 questions, most of which are multiple choice; for samples of all the item types on this exam, see the sample items in the back of this guide. Some items are unscored, pretest items. The pretest items are embedded throughout the exam and are indistinguishable from the scored items. You will have two (2) hours to complete the examination. Your score will be reported as a letter grade.

UExcel Exam Resources

Excelsior College Bookstore

The Excelsior College Bookstore offers recommended textbooks and other resources to help you prepare for UExcel exams.

The bookstore is available online at: www.excelsior.edu/bookstore

UExcel Practice Exams

The official UExcel practice exams are highly recommended as part of your study plan. Once you register for your UExcel exam, you are eligible to purchase the corresponding practice exam, which can be taken using any computer with a supported Web browser. Each practice exam includes two forms that you may take within a 180-day period.
Excelsior College Library

Enrolled Excelsior College students can access millions of authoritative resources online through the Excelsior College Library. Created through our partnership with the Sheridan Libraries of The Johns Hopkins University, the library provides access to journal articles, books, websites, databases, reference services, and many other resources. Special library pages relate to the nursing degree exams and other selected exams. To access it, visit www.excelsior.edu/library (login is required).

Our library provides:

- 24/7 availability
- The world’s most current authoritative resources
- Help and support from staff librarians

Online Tutoring

Excelsior College offers online tutoring through SMARTTHINKING™ to connect with tutors who have been trained in a variety of academic subjects. To access SMARTTHINKING, go to www.excelsior.edu/smartthinking. Once there, you may download a copy of the SMARTTHINKING Student Handbook as a PDF.

MyExcelsior Community

MyExcelsior Community enables Excelsior College students and alumni to interact with their peers online. As members, students can participate in real-time chat groups, join online study groups, buy and sell used textbooks, and share Internet resources. Enrolled students have automatic access from their MyExcelsior page. Visit www.excelsior.edu/myexcelsiorcommunity.

Preparing for UExcel Exams

How Long Will It Take Me to Study?

A UExcel exam enables you to show that you've learned material comparable to one or more 15-week college-level courses. As an independent learner, you should study and review as much as you would for a college course. For a 3-credit course in a subject they don't know, most students would be expected to study nine hours per week for 15 weeks, for a total of 135 hours.

Study Tips

Become an active user of the resource materials. Aim for understanding rather than memorization. The more active you are when you study, the more likely you will be to retain, understand, and apply the information.

The following techniques are generally considered to be active learning:

- preview or survey each chapter
- highlight or underline text you believe is important
- write questions or comments in the margins
- practice re-stating content in your own words
- relate what you are reading to the chapter title, section headings, and other organizing elements of the textbook
- find ways to engage your eyes, your ears, and your muscles, as well as your brain, in your studies
- study with a partner or a small group (if you are an enrolled student, search for partners on MyExcelsior Community)
- prepare your review notes as flashcards or create recordings that you can use while commuting or exercising

When you feel confident that you understand a content area, review what you have learned. Take a second look at the material to evaluate your understanding. If you have a study partner, the two of you can review by explaining the content to each other or writing test questions for each other to answer. Review questions from textbook chapters may be helpful for partner or individual study, as well.

Using UExcel Practice Exams

We recommend taking the first form of the practice exam when you begin studying, to see how much you already know. After taking the first practice exam, check your performance on each question and find out why your answer was right or wrong. This feedback will help you improve your knowledge of the subject and identify areas of weakness that you should address before taking the exam. Take the second form of the practice exam after you have finished studying. Analyze your results to identify the areas that you still need to review.
Although there is no guarantee, our research suggests that students who do well on the practice exams are more likely to pass the actual exam than those who do not do well (or do not take advantage of this opportunity).

**About Test Preparation Services**

Preparation for UExcel® exams and Excelsior College® Examinations, though based on independent study, is supported by Excelsior College with a comprehensive set of exam learning resources and services designed to help you succeed. These learning resources are prepared by Excelsior College so you can be assured that they are current and cover the content you are expected to master for the exams. These resources, and your desire to learn, are usually all that you will need to succeed.

There are test-preparation companies that will offer to help you study for our examinations. Some may imply a relationship with Excelsior College and/or make claims that their products and services are all that you need to prepare for our examinations.

Excelsior College is not affiliated with any test preparation firm and does not endorse the products or services of these companies. No test preparation vendor is authorized to provide admissions counseling or academic advising services, or to collect any payments, on behalf of Excelsior College. Excelsior College does not send authorized representatives to a student’s home nor does it review the materials provided by test preparation companies for content or compatibility with Excelsior College examinations.

To help you become a well-informed consumer, we suggest that before you make any purchase decision regarding study materials provided by organizations other than Excelsior College, you consider the points outlined on our website at [www.excelsior.edu/testprep](http://www.excelsior.edu/testprep).

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### Preparing for This Exam

#### Prior Knowledge

A knowledge of concepts usually learned in an intermediate algebra course is assumed.

#### Using the Content Outline

Each content area in the outline includes (1) the recommended minimum hours of study to devote to that content area and (2) the most important sections of the recommended resources for that area. These annotations are not intended to be comprehensive. You may need to refer to other chapters in the recommended textbooks. Chapter numbers and titles may differ in other editions.

This content outline contains examples of the types of information you should study. Although these examples are numerous, do not assume that everything on the exam will come from these examples. Conversely, do not expect that every detail you study will appear on the exam. Any exam is only a broad sample of all the questions that could be asked about the subject matter.

#### Using the Sample Questions and Rationales

Each content guide provides sample questions to illustrate those typically found on the exam. These questions are intended to give you an idea of the level of knowledge expected and the way questions are typically phrased. The sample questions do not sample the entire content of the exam and are not intended to serve as an entire practice test.

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### Recommended Resources for the UExcel Exam in Precalculus Algebra

The study materials listed below are recommended by Excelsior College as the most appropriate resources to help you study for the examination. For information on ordering from the Excelsior College Bookstore, see page 1 of this guide. You may also find resource
materials in college libraries. Public libraries may have some of the textbooks or may be able to obtain them through an interlibrary loan program.

You should allow sufficient time to obtain resources and to study before taking the exam.

Textbooks

The following textbook was used by the examination development committee to verify all questions on the exam. These study materials may be purchased from the Excelsior College Bookstore.

www.excelsior.edu/bookstore


These study materials may be purchased from the Excelsior College Bookstore.

Open Educational Resources

The first course below appears to be a very good match with the exam preparation materials. If you are unsure how well you know some of the basics of algebra, you may prefer to start with the second course, which has more foundational material in it but will not provide sufficient study of the later topics to prepare you well.

The Saylor Foundation provides free, high quality courses through online, self-paced, free learning resources.

Saylor Foundation: Beginning Algebra
http://www.saylor.org/courses/ma001/

Khan Academy: Precalculus
https://www.khanacademy.org/math/precalculus

Open Course Library provides free, online, open educational resources.

Open Course Library
http://opencourselibrary.org/math-141-precalculus-i/

Reducing Textbook Costs

Many students know it is less expensive to buy a used textbook, and buying a previous edition is also an option. The Excelsior College bookstore includes a buyback feature and a used book marketplace, as well as the ability to rent digital versions of textbooks for as long as students need them. Students are encouraged to explore these and the many other opportunities available online to help defray textbook costs.
**General Description of the Examination**

The UExcel Precalculus Algebra examination is based on material typically taught in a one-semester, three-credit, lower-level course in algebra. The content of the examination corresponds to course offerings such as College Algebra or Precalculus Algebra.

The examination measures knowledge and understanding of graphing, analyzing and applying transcendental and algebraic functions, operations and functions, and the ability to solve equations and inequalities.

**Learning Outcomes**

After you have successfully worked your way through the recommended study materials, you should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. Translate word problems into algebraic models.
2. Solve linear, absolute value, quadratic, rational, radical, polynomial, exponential, and logarithmic equations.
3. Use various factoring techniques.
4. Graph, recognize, and analyze common and important functions.
5. Solve linear, absolute value, and quadratic inequalities.
6. Evaluate functions and use function notation.
7. Understand and apply the algebra of functions, including composition and inverse.
8. Analyze and apply linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions.
9. Solve systems of linear equations in two variables.
10. Use properties of exponential and logarithmic expressions to manipulate algebraic expressions.
Content Outline

The content outline describes the various areas of the test, similar to the way a syllabus outlines a course. To fully prepare requires self-direction and discipline. Study involves careful reading, reflection, and systematic review.

The major content areas on the Precalculus Algebra examination, the percent of the examination, and the hours to devote to each content area are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Percent of the Examination</th>
<th>Hours of Study</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Equations and Inequalities</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Graphs and Functions</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Linear and Quadratic Functions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Polynomial and Rational Functions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Algebra of Functions</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Exponential and Logarithmic Functions</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Occasionally, examples will be listed for a content topic to help clarify that topic. However, the content of the examination is not limited to the specific examples given.

I. Equations and Inequalities

15 PERCENT OF EXAM | 20 HOURS OF STUDY

Ch. 1, Equations and Inequalities
Ch. 8, Systems of Equations and Inequalities

A. Equations
   1. Linear
   2. Quadratic and quadratic in form
   3. Rational
   4. Radical

5. Polynomial equations of higher degree
6. Absolute value

B. Inequalities
   1. Linear
   2. Absolute value
   3. Quadratic

C. Complex numbers

D. Application and problem solving process
   1. Problem set-up
      a. Simple interest
      b. Uniform motion
   2. Unit of measurement

E. Systems of linear equations: substitution and elimination
II. Graphs and Functions

| 25 PERCENT OF EXAM | 34 HOURS OF STUDY |

Ch. 2, Graphs
Ch. 3, Functions and Their Graphs

A. Distance and midpoint formulas
B. Graphs of equations in two variables
   1. Lines
      a. Slope-intercept and point-slope form
      b. Intercepts
   2. Circles
   3. Symmetry with respect to x-axis, y-axis, and origin
C. Functions and their graphs
   1. Domain and range
   2. Evaluation of functions
   3. Even and odd functions
   4. Increasing, decreasing, and constant functions
D. Graphs of common functions
   1. Identity function $f(x) = x$
   2. Square function $f(x) = x^2$
   3. Cube function $f(x) = x^3$
   4. Square root function $f(x) = \sqrt{x}$
   5. Reciprocal function $f(x) = \frac{1}{x}$
   6. Absolute value function $f(x) = |x|
E. Piecewise-defined functions
F. Transformations of graphs
   1. Horizontal and vertical shifts
   2. Horizontal and vertical reflections
   3. Horizontal and vertical compression and stretching
G. Mathematical modeling: problem set-up

III. Linear and Quadratic Functions

| 20 PERCENT OF EXAM | 27 HOURS OF STUDY |

Ch. 4, Linear and Quadratic Functions

A. Linear functions
   1. Average rate of change
   2. Supply and demand
   3. Revenue and cost
B. Quadratic functions
   1. Completing the square to find the vertex
   2. Graphing using vertex and axis of symmetry
C. Quadratic models: problem set-up

IV. Polynomial and Rational Functions

| 10 PERCENT OF EXAM | 14 HOURS OF STUDY |

Ch. 5, Polynomial and Rational Functions

A. Polynomial functions
   1. Power function $f(x) = x^n$ and its properties
   2. Zeroes of a polynomial
   3. Factor theorem
   4. Rational zeroes theorem
   5. Fundamental theorem of algebra
   6. Conjugate pairs: forming a polynomial function
B. Rational functions
   1. Finding the domain algebraically
   2. Horizontal and vertical asymptotes
   3. Finding the domain and range from a graph
V. Algebra of Functions

10 PERCENT OF EXAM | 14 HOURS OF STUDY

Ch. 6, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

A. Arithmetic with functions
B. Composition of functions
C. One-to-one functions
D. Inverse functions
   1. Relationship between domain and range of \( f \), and domain and range of \( f^{-1} \)
   2. Finding \( f^{-1} \) from equation of \( f \), when it exists
   3. Geometric relationship between graphs of \( f \) and \( f^{-1} \)

VI. Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

20 PERCENT OF EXAM | 27 HOURS OF STUDY

Ch. 6, Exponential and Logarithmic Functions

A. Exponential functions and their properties
   1. Graphing
   2. Domain, range, and asymptote
   3. The natural exponential base \( e \)
   4. Solving exponential equations with the same base
B. Logarithmic functions and graphs
   1. Definition of logarithm
   2. Conversion of an equation between logarithmic and exponential forms
   3. Domain, range, and asymptote
   4. Graphs
   5. Common and natural logarithms
C. Properties of logarithms
   1. Product, quotient, and power properties
   2. Condensing and expanding logarithmic expressions
   3. Change-of-base formula
D. Logarithmic and exponential equations with common and different bases
E. Exponential growth and decay
   1. Compound interest
   2. Uninhibited population growth and radioactive decay
   3. Continuous compounding of interest
The sample questions give you an idea of the level of knowledge expected in the exam and how questions are typically phrased. They are not representative of the entire content of the exam and are not intended to serve as a practice test.

Rationales for the questions can be found on pages 11–12 of this guide. In that section, the correct answer is identified and each answer is explained. The number in parentheses at the beginning of each rationale refers to the corresponding section of the content outline. For any questions you answer incorrectly, return to that section of the content outline for further study.

You will be provided with an erasable white board to use during your exam. During your exam, tables of necessary formulas will be available for your reference, and you will have access to a scientific calculator on the computer. The calculator button is in the top left hand corner of the page as each question is presented and the tables and formulas are in the Help button located in the lower left hand corner as each question is presented. A copy of the formulas and a picture of a typical scientific (non-graphing) calculator are printed at the back of this content guide.

1. What is the slope-intercept form of the equation of the line that passes through points (-2, 3) and (1, 2)?
   1) \(y - 3 = -\frac{1}{3}(x + 2)\)
   2) \(y - 3 = -3(x + 2)\)
   3) \(y - 3 = -\frac{1}{3}(x + 2)\)
   4) \(y = -3x - 3\)

2. What is the vertex of a quadratic function \(f(x) = 3x^2 - 12x + 17\) by completing the square?
   1) (2, 13)
   2) (5, 2)
   3) (17, 2)
   4) (2, 5)

3. A vehicle is traveling at 60 mph and its initial position is 35 miles from Point A at \(t = 0\). What is the linear function that expresses the position \(x\) of the vehicle at time \(t\) when the vehicle is moving away from Point A following a straight-line path?
   1) \(x = 35t + 60\)
   2) \(x = 60t + 35\)
   3) \(x = 60t - 35\)
   4) \(x = 35 - 60t\)

4. According to the factor theorem, which is a factor of \(4x^6 - 37x^4 + 59x^2 + 100\)?
   1) \(x - 100\)
   2) \(x - 2\)
   3) \(x + 1\)
   4) \(x + 25\)

5. Which polynomial is of degree 3, has real coefficients, 4 and 3 + 2\(i\) as zeroes, and a leading coefficient 1?
   1) \(x^3 - 10x^2 + 37x - 52\)
   2) \(x^3 - 10x^2 + 37x + 52\)
   3) \(x^2 - (2i + 7)x + (8i + 12)\)
   4) \(x^3 - 6x^2 + 13x\)
6. Suppose that \( f(x) = 1 - \sqrt{x} \). What is the domain of \( f^{-1} \)?
   1) \((-\infty,1]\)
   2) \([0,\infty)\)
   3) \((-\infty,\infty)\)
   4) \([1,\infty)\)

7. What are the domain and horizontal asymptote for \( g(x) = \left( \frac{1}{2} \right)^x \)?
   1) \((-\infty,\infty); y = 0\)
   2) \((0,\infty); y = 0\)
   3) \((-\infty,\infty); x = 0\)
   4) \((0,\infty); x = 0\)

8. A person wishes to purchase an SUV for $25,000. The person wants a loan in the purchase amount from a bank imposing these terms: 3.9% compounded monthly for a period of 5 years. If the person pays nothing until the 5-year period ends, how much will he or she have to pay at that time?
   1) $498.71
   2) $506.22
   3) $29,875.00
   4) $30,373.17
Rationales

1.IIB1a
1. The equation is not in slope-intercept form.
2. The equation is not in slope-intercept form and this result indicates that the incorrect slope has been calculated.
3. The equation passes through the points given and is in slope-intercept form.
4. The equation passes through only one of the points given, because an incorrect slope has been calculated.

2.IIB1
1. This is the result of forgetting to multiply the 4 that was subtracted by the coefficient 3 of \(x^2\).
2. One would arrive at (5, 2) by switching \(x\) and \(y\).
3. This the result of failing to subtract anything to balance the 4 added in, and switching the \(x\) and \(y\) ordinates.
4. \(f(x) = 3x^2 - 12x + 17 = 3(x^2 - 4x + 4) + 17 - 12 = 3(x - 2)^2 + 5.\) Vertex is at (2, 5).

3.IIIA1
1. The distance is not proportional to the initial position.
2. Distance = speed \(x\) time + initial position. Point A is the origin \(x = 60t + 35\)
3. The initial position is a positive value.
4. The vehicle is moving away from Point A and the speed must be positive.

4.IVA3
1. This may result from confusing the factor theorem with the rational zeroes theorem.
2. Substituting \(x = 2\) into the polynomial gives us 0, and the factor theorem tells us that in this case, \(x - 2\) factors the polynomial.
3. See 2).
4. See 2).

5.IVA6
1. The polynomial satisfies the constraints given.
2. This is the result of making an error while expanding the product of factors.
3. This is the result of forming a polynomial with the zeroes given, but not using a conjugate pair to guarantee real coefficients.
4. This the result of failing to use all the zeroes given.

6.VD1
1. Since the domain of \(f^{-1}\) = range of \(f\), and the range of \(f\) is \((-\infty,1]\), the domain of \(f^{-1}\) must be \((-\infty,1]\).
2. The interval \([0,\infty)\) is simply the domain of \(f\) not \(f^{-1}\).
3. One may attempt to find \(f^{-1}\) since it exists: Let \(y = 1 - \sqrt{x}\). Solving for \(x\) we have \(x = (1-y)^2\). Recall that \(x \geq 0\) and \(y \leq 1\) for \(f\). Forgetting this when swapping \(x\) and \(y\) and finding the inverse to be \(f^{-1}(x) = (1-y)^2\) would result in the domain of \((-\infty,\infty)\).
4. An incorrect graph of \(f(x) = 1 - \sqrt{x}\) as \(y = 1 + \sqrt{x}\) produced the incorrect range of \([1,\infty)\), thus yielding an incorrect domain for \(f^{-1}\).
7.VIA2

1. Since \( g \) produces a real value for all \( x \in (-\infty, \infty) \), the domain of \( g \) is \( (-\infty, \infty) \). Furthermore, \( (\frac{1}{2})^x \) is always positive and as \( x \to \infty \), \( y \to 0 \) but \( y \) is never exactly 0.

2. This choice is incorrect for the domain. It implies that \( (\frac{1}{2})^x \) is not a real value when \( x \) is negative or zero, so \( (0, \infty) \) is the range.

3. \( x = 0 \) would be a vertical asymptote and \( g \) has no vertical asymptotes.

4. The domain must be \( (-\infty, \infty) \) since \( (\frac{1}{2})^x \) exists for all real numbers and the horizontal asymptote must be of the form \( y = 0 \) not \( x = 0 \).

8.VIE1

1. See 4).

2. This is the calculation for the monthly payment:
\[
A = P(1 + \frac{r}{n})\left[1 + \frac{r}{n}\right]^n = 25,000.00\left[1 + \frac{0.039}{12}\right]^{12 \times 5} = 30,373.17
\]
Payment = 30,373.17/60 = $506.22

3. This is the result of computing simple interest, rather than compound interest, and adding it to the original cost of the SUV.

4. \[
A = P\left[1 + \frac{r}{n}\right] = 25,000.00\left[1 + \frac{0.039}{12}\right]^{12 \times 5} = $30,373.17
\]
**Formula Sheet**

**Continuous Compounding**
\[ A = Pe^{rt} \]

**Compound Interest**
\[ A = P(1 + \frac{r}{n})^{nt} \]

**Uninhibited Growth or Uninhibited Decay**
\[ A(t) = A_0e^{kt} \]

**Simple Interest**
\[ I = Prt \]

**Uniform Motion**
\[ d = rt \]

**Distance**
\[ d(P_1, P_2) = \sqrt{(x_2 - x_1)^2 + (y_2 - y_1)^2} \]

**Midpoint**
\[ M = (x, y) = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right) \]

**Slope of a Line**
\[ m = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \quad x_1 \neq x_2 \]

**Equation of a Vertical Line**
\[ x = a \]

**Point Slope Form of an Equation of a Line**
\[ y - y_1 = m(x - x_1) \]

**Equation of a Horizontal Line**
\[ y = b \]

**Slope-intercept Form of an Equation of a Line**
\[ y = mx + b \]

**Standard Form of an Equation of a Circle with Radius r and Center (h, k)**
\[ (x - h)^2 + (y - k)^2 = r^2 \]

**Profit, Revenue, and Cost Function**
\[ P(x) = R(x) - C(x) \]

**Quadratic Function Given its Vertex and One Other Point**
\[ f(x) = a(x - h)^2 + k \]

**Change-of-base** \( a \neq 1, b \neq 1 \) and \( m \) are all positive real numbers
\[ \log_M = \frac{\log_b M}{\log_a} \]

**Quadratic Equation**
\[ ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \quad a \neq 0 \]

**Quadratic Formula**
\[ x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} \]

**Discriminant of a Quadratic Equation**
For a quadratic equation \( ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \):
1. If \( b^2 - 4ac > 0 \) there are two unequal real solutions.
2. If \( b^2 - 4ac = 0 \) there is a repeated solution, a root of multiplicity 2.
3. If \( b^2 - 4ac < 0 \) there is no real solution.

**Pythagorean Theorem**
\[ a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \]

**Circle**
\[ A = \pi r^2 \]
\[ C = 2\pi r \]

**Triangle**
\[ A = \frac{1}{2}bh \]

**Rectangle**
\[ A = lw \]
\[ P = 2l + 2w \]

**Rectangular Box**
\[ V = lwh \]
\[ S = 2lw + 2lh + 2wh \]
Pearson VUE scientific calculator
Registering for Your Exam

Register Online

www.excelsior.edu/examregistration
Follow the instructions and pay by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card.

Examination Administration

Pearson Testing Centers serve as the administrator for all Excelsior College computer-delivered exams. The Disability Services office at Excelsior College is responsible for considering requests for reasonable accommodations (exceptions for individual students with documented disabilities). If you are requesting an accommodation due to a disability, download and complete a Request for Accommodation form that can be accessed by visiting the Excelsior College website at www.excelsior.edu/disability-services.

Computer-Delivered Testing

You will take the exam by computer, entering your answers using either the keyboard or the mouse. The system is designed to be as user-friendly as possible, even for those with little or no computer experience. On-screen instructions are similar to those you would see in a paper examination booklet.

We strongly encourage you to use the online tutorial before taking your exam at a Pearson Testing Center. To access the tutorial, go to www.pearsonvue.com/uexcel and click on the Pearson VUE Tutorial link on the right hand side of the page.

On the Day of Your Exam

Important Reminders

On the day of your exam, remember to:

• dress comfortably: the computer will not mind that you’re wearing your favorite relaxation outfit
• arrive at the test site rested and prepared to concentrate for an extended period
• allow sufficient time to travel, park, and locate the test center
• be prepared for possible variations in temperature at the test center due to weather changes or energy conservation measures
• bring your ID, but otherwise, don’t weigh yourself down with belongings that will have to be kept in a locker during the test.

Academic Honesty

Nondisclosure Statement

• All test takers must agree to the terms of the Excelsior College Academic Honesty Policy before taking an examination. The agreement will be presented on screen at the Pearson VUE Testing Center before the start of your exam.

• Once the test taker agrees to the terms of the Academic Honesty Nondisclosure Statement, the exam will begin.

If you choose not to accept the terms of the agreement

• your exam will be terminated
• you will be required to leave the testing center
• you will not be eligible for a refund. For more information, review the Student Policy Handbook at www.excelsior.edu/studentpolicyhandbook.

Student behavior is monitored during and after the exam. Electronic measures are used to monitor the security of test items and scan for illegal use of intellectual property. This monitoring includes surveillance of Internet chat rooms, websites, and other public forums.

Information About UExcel Exams for Colleges and Universities

A committee of teaching faculty and practicing professionals determines the learning outcomes to be tested on each exam. Excelsior College Center for Educational Measurement staff oversee the technical aspects of test construction in accordance with current professional standards. To promote fairness in testing, we take special care to ensure that the language used in the exams and related materials is consistent, professional, and user friendly. Editorial staff perform systematic quantitative and qualitative reviews to ensure accuracy, clarity, and compliance with conventions of bias-free language usage.

Excelsior College, the test developer, recommends granting three (3) semester hours of lower-level undergraduate credit to students who receive a letter grade of C or higher on this examination. The examination may be used to help fulfill the course requirement for the BS in General Business or as a free elective for all Excelsior College degree programs that allow for free electives. Other colleges and universities also recognize this exam as a basis for granting credit or advanced standing. Individual institutions set their own policies for the amount of credit awarded and the minimum acceptable score.

Precalculus Algebra Exam Development Committee

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