

Faculty Review of Open eTextbooks

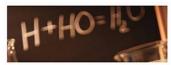
The California Open Educational Resources Council has designed and implemented a faculty review process of the free and open etextbooks showcased within the California Open Online Library for Education (www.cool4ed.org). Faculty from the California Community Colleges, the California State University, 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:

General Chemistry: Principles, Patterns, and Applications

General Chemistry: Principles, Patterns, and Applications by Bruce Averill and Patricia Eldredge is licensed under Creative Commons

Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike



General Chemistry: Principles, Patterns, and Applications



License: (ا) ((cc)

Textbook Authors: Bruce Averill and Patricia Eldredge

Reviewed by: **Richard DiPietro**

Institution: San Jose City College

Title/Position: Professor

Format **Reviewed:** Online

A small fee may be associated with various formats.

Subject Matter 3.2 Instructional Design 2.4 **Editorial Aspects** 2.0 Usability 1.0 N/A Very Limited Adequate

Date Reviewed:

December 2015

California OER Council eTextbook Evaluation Rubric

CA Course ID: CHEM 1205

Subject Matter (30 possible points)	N/A (0 pts)	Very Weak (1pt)	Limited (2 pts)	Adequate (3pts)	Strong (4 pts)	Superior (5 pts)
b the content accurate, error-free, and unbiased?			Х			

Review Summary Strong Superior 0 points 2 points 5 points weak 3 points 4 points 1 point

Find it: eTextbook Website

Does the text adequately cover the designated course with a sufficient degree of depth and scope?			х	
Does the textbook use sufficient and relevant examples to present its subject matter?				х
Does the textbook use a clear, consistent terminology to present its subject matter?			х	
Does the textbook reflect current knowledge of the subject matter?			х	
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: 19 out of 30

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

- Very thorough coverage of the basic principles in Intro Chem. Perhaps too much emphasis on the physics of work and other concepts best provided in a thermodynamics class.
- I particularly enjoyed the real-world applications included throughout. In my experience, these examples really cement the subject matter in the student's mind.
- In my opinion, test banks are for lazy teachers.

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?				х		
Does the textbook reflect a consideration of different learning styles? (e.g. visual, textual?)				х		
Does the textbook present explicit learning outcomes aligned with the course and curriculum?				х		
Is a coherent organization of the textbook evident to the reader/student?					х	
Does the textbook reflect best practices in the instruction of the designated course?					х	
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?	Х					

Total Points: 17 out of 35

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

• There should be an option for Do Not Know. I cannot comment on searchability or ancillary materials.

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?	(0 pt3)	(1pt) X	(2 pt3)	(30(3)	(4 pts)	(5 pts)
Is the textbook written in a clear, engaging style?					Х	
Does the textbook adhere to effective principles of design? (e.g. are pages latidOout and organized to be clear and visually engaging and effective? Are colors, font, and typography consistent and unified?)				х		
Does the textbook include conventional editorial features? (e.g. a table of contents, glossary, citations and further references)			х			
How effective are multimedia elements of the textbook? (e.g. graphics, animations, audio)	x					10 out of 25

Please provide comments on any editorial aspect of this textbook.

• Lots of errors both typographical and factual. Most of the errors are in the figures (at least one figure was printed in reverse) and Tables.

Usshility (25 possible points)	N/A	Very Weak	Limited	Adequate	Strong	Superior
Usability (25 possible points)	(0 pts)	(1pt)	(2 pts)	(3pts)	(4 pts)	(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.gtxt, .pdf, .epub, etc.)	х				
Can the textbook be printed easily?	Х				
Does the user interface implicitly inform the reader how to interact with and navigate the textbook?		х			
How easily can the textbook be annotated by students and instructors?	х				
			1	Total Points:	5 out of 25

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

• Again, I can't speak to some of these questions. The text does not have a Table of Contents (easy enough to add along with the various corrections) and the references are fairly marginal but at this level it is common for texts to omit specific references.

Overall Ratings						
	Not at	Very Weak	Limited	Adequate	Strong	Superior
	all (O	(1 pt)	(2 pts)	(3 pts)	(4 pts)	(5 pts)
	pts)					
What is your overall impression of the					х	
textbook?					^	
	Not at	Strong	Limited			Enthusiastically
	all (O	reservations	willingness	Willing	Strongly	willing
	pts)	(1 pt)	(2 pts)	(3 pts)	willing (4 pts)	(5 pts)
How willing would you be to adopt this book?				х		

Total Points: 7 out of 10

Overall Comments

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

• I gave this text a strong rating with the assumption that a good editor get in there and fix the errors. Otherwise I very much enjoyed the relevant applications that accompanied the concepts presented in the text including the question and answer sections.

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

• I would not use it until it was well-edited for accuracy.

We invite you to add your feedback on the textbook or the review to the <u>textbook site in MERLOT</u> (Please <u>register</u> in MERLOT to post your feedback.)



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



This review is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.