Minimal research has been conducted surrounding how best students learn trigonometric functions in a precalculus course. Using motivation from a study conducted by Weber (2005), results from this study indicate that students who participated in a college level precalculus course where the unit circle was taught before right triangle trigonometry were better able to utilize a unit circle but struggled to conceptualize some of its properties. This report has implications for mathematics programs looking to determine best practices for the instruction order of precalculus courses.

Keywords: Precalculus, Trigonometric Functions, Student Thinking and Learning
References


