

ALEKS FAQ

What is the ALEKS Online Math Placement Test?

ALEKS = Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces. ALEKS is an artificial-intelligence based assessment tool that zeros in on the strengths and weaknesses of a student's mathematical knowledge, reports its findings to the student, and then, if necessary, provides the student with a learning environment for bringing this knowledge up to an appropriate level for course placement.

Who is required to take the ALEKS Online Math Placement Test?

*Students who have an ACT math subscore below 19 (or SAT below 460) are **required** to take the ALEKS online placement test.*

Students who have an ACT math subscore 19 or above (or SAT 460 or above) will be placed in the appropriate math course based on their ACT or SAT scores. Please see the chart here.

You do not have to take the ALEKS Online Placement Test if the math component of your:

ACT is 19 or above

SAT is 460 or above

KYOTE is 22 or above

COMPASS is 36 or above

If you would like to take a higher math course you would then take the ALEKS online placement test. You should consult with your academic advisor or the Department of Mathematics when making the decision whether or not to take ALEKS.

*If you have transcript credit for a university mathematics course that transfers to the University of Kentucky at the level of MA 111 or MA 109 or higher, you are **NOT** required to take the ALEKS Online Placement Test. You will be placed by the course that is being transferred to UK.*

If I made a score of X on my ACT/SAT math exam, do I need to take the ALEKS placement exam?

Please see the information in the previous question.

How does the ALEKS Online Math Placement Test work?

ALEKS avoids multiple-choice questions and instead uses flexible and easy to use answer input tools that mimic paper and pencil techniques. When you first log on to ALEKS, a brief tutorial shows you how to use these ALEKS answer input tools. You then begin the ALEKS Assessment. In a short period of time (30-45 minutes for most courses), ALEKS assesses the your current content knowledge by asking a number of questions (usually 20-30). ALEKS chooses each question on the basis of answers to all the previous questions. Each student, and therefore each set of assessment questions, is unique. It is impossible to predict the exact questions that will be asked.

You should not use a calculator other than what is supplied by ALEKS. Basic calculators should be used only when the ALEKS Calculator button is active. A basic calculator is part of ALEKS but is only made available for use when appropriate

By the time you have completed the assessment, ALEKS has developed a precise picture of your knowledge of the material, knowing which topics you has mastered and which topics you haven't. This information is represented by a multicolor pie chart shown to you at the completion of the assessment.

How do I access the test?

*You will be able to access the ALEKS Placement test using this link:
<https://secure.aleks.com/uky> Students will sign in with their LinkBlue username and password the same as they would for their MyUK.*

Is there a fee for taking this test?

Yes \$25.00 which can be paid by credit card through the ALEKS website. For this \$25 fee, you also get 6 weeks of tutorial material should you need help you pass the exam in the future.

How many times may I take the ALEKS Online Math Placement Test?

You will take the ALEKS math placement test and then have the option to work in ALEKS for 6 weeks and retake the placement test.

How many questions are on the test?

Generally, you are asked 20 to 35 questions. None of the questions are multiple choice. Students who are unable to answer many of the first questions may only be asked a few questions.

How is the content of the test chosen?

There are several topics on the ALEKS Online Math Tests. ALEKS chooses each question on the basis of a your answers to the previous questions. Each student, and therefore each set of assessment questions, is unique. It is impossible to predict the questions that will be asked. By the time you have completed the assessment, ALEKS has developed a precise picture of your knowledge of the course, knowing which topics you have mastered and which topics you have not out of all of the topics in the course.

*The content of the questions is chosen from Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II topics. The test measures the material you know in order to place you into the correct course. It is **not** to keep you out of courses, but it is putting you in the best credit-bearing mathematics course for you major in which you should be successful.*

Once I answer a question, can I go back and change my answer?

No, once you submit an answer, you cannot change it. You should keep this in mind while taking the placement test.

What if I retest and do worse?

If a previous ALEKS math placement test score resulted in a higher math placement, the system will keep the higher score, unless the score has expired. Test scores are good for one year.

There is an "I don't know" button that can be used to answer questions. What is this for?

You may be asked questions on material that you have not yet learned. Only click on "I don't know" for your answer to an ALEKS test question if you really don't know how to solve the problem and it is content that you have not seen previously.

*Try your best to solve all problems that you think you might be able to solve. It is much better to answer incorrectly on a topic that you **have** seen before, than to use the "I don't know" button and then skip related topics. Once you answer a question, you cannot change your answer.*

Do not think of the "I don't know" button as a way to skip a problem. It does much more than this. It is important that you do your best on the assessment or ALEKS will underestimate your knowledge.

How can I find out what score I need on the ALEKS Online Math Placement Test?

The chart on the Academic Enhancement and Mathematics websites is a general guide for which ALEKS scores allow access to certain math courses. Students will consult with their academic advisor between taking the ALEKS assessment and registering for a math course.

How long will the assessment take and what materials will I need?

Be sure you are ready to take your exam prior to logging on. Set aside at least a 2-hour block of time in which to complete the assessment. Most students will finish the assessment within an hour or so, but every student will be different. You will need only pencil and paper to work on problems. ALEKS has a built-in calculator available when needed, so you do not need a calculator.

How long are my ALEKS Math Placement Exam scores valid?

Scores are valid for one year.

Why would I use ALEKS Learning Mode?

You might choose this option if you feel that your pre-calculus or algebra skills are weak and you would like to review that knowledge in an effective online learning environment. This may be a good option if you have taken the initial placement exam and did not reach the minimum ALEKS score for your desired course. The ALEKS Learning Mode should assist you in reaching the required minimum score for placement into a Math class. Using [Learning Mode](#) does not result in a new math placement. Students will need to retake ALEKS Online Placement in order to attempt to place higher, after using learning mode or other review methods.

What type of computer do I need to use?

[ALEKS system requirements](#) are available online through the ALEKS website.

What if my computer crashes while taking the assessment?

If you have computer problems, you should be able to log back into the ALEKS assessment and resume testing. For ALEKS customer support please email at this website [ALEKS Customer Support](#).

How do I get technical support for the ALEKS Math Placement Test?

For ALEKS customer support please contact them through [ALEKS Customer Support](#).

Is there telephone support for ALEKS?

For ALEKS telephone customer support please find their hours and telephone # at this website [Contact Customer Support](#)